



OPEN DAYS Master Class

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Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union, 2013

ISBN: 978-92-79-32501-4

doi:10.2776/82183

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European Commission

Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy

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Internet pages: http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/index_en.cfm

The opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily
reflect the views of the European Commission.

Printed in Belgium

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*! We wish you an informative,
interesting and enjoyable
experience at this inaugural
Master Class! !*



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ana-Paula Laissy".

Ana-Paula Laissy
Head of Communication Unit
Directorate-General Regional
and Urban Policy,
European Commission




A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sally Hardy".

Sally Hardy
Chief Executive
Regional Studies Association



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Wolfgang Petzold".

Wolfgang Petzold
Head of Unit Events,
Fora, OPEN DAYS
Committee of the Regions



Dialogue across generations has the potential to create fresh, 'outside-the-box' ideas and is beneficial to any policy-making. This is equally true for students and early-career researchers in the field of regional and urban development, who are the future policy experts and will influence the way that our regions and cities develop.

This is the first time that a Master Class on EU cohesion policy is being organised, in partnership with the Regional Studies Association (RSA), in the context of OPEN DAYS (7-10 October 2013) – the major annual event on regional and urban policy in Europe. The Master Class will complement the OPEN DAYS University, which has been a well-established part of the event since 2009.

The Master Class aims to familiarise postgraduate students and early-career researchers in regional and urban development studies with EU cohesion policy matters and engage with them on future challenges for the policy. The opening session of the Master Class will outline and discuss the economic context, governance, and outlook for EU cohesion policy from 2014 to 2020 and beyond. It will discuss the key trends affecting European cities and regions and focus on the nature of the policy reforms proposed in order to generate better results and more impact on the ground.

The Master Class will bring together 77 selected postgraduate students and early-career researchers from EU and non-EU countries. A number of highly regarded academics will contribute to the two-day programme, joined by EU Commissioner for Regional Policy, Johannes Hahn, and senior EU officials, as speakers.

This brochure is intended to set the scene for the Master Class students, for their lecturers and for other speakers to get better acquainted with each other before the Class starts. It also serves as a reference for academic experts in regional and urban policy. We very much hope that this Master Class will initiate further cooperation among the group and that the brochure will facilitate networking.

The **aim** of the OPEN DAYS UNIVERSITY-MASTER CLASS (ODU-MC) is to improve the understanding of EU cohesion policy and its research potential among postgraduate students and early-career researchers, defined as being within five years of the date on their PhD certificate. Specifically, the **objectives** are:

- to present the latest developments in research on European regional and urban development and EU cohesion policy;
- to enable postgraduates and early career researchers (ECR) to exchange views with EU politicians, officials and senior academics in the field of European regional and urban development and policy;
- to help create networking links among postgraduates and ECR from different countries and with the wider EU policy and academic communities; and
- to raise awareness and understanding of the research potential in the field of EU cohesion policy.

► Organisation

The ODU-MC is being organised by the Regional Studies Association (RSA) together with the European Commission (EC) and the Committee of the Regions (CoR).

2013 is the introductory year for the Master Class and attendees were selected from an open competition, initially with the target of providing places for two participants from each EU Member State, up to

15 participants from non-EU Member States as well as the six Poster Competition finalists (77 altogether), all from recognised academic institutions. Where the places from a Member State were not filled by proposals of the appropriate quality, they were allocated to the best proposal from another Member State. All participants were judged and selected by a committee appointed by the Regional Studies Association in agreement with the European Commission's Regional and Urban Policy Directorate-General. A fully transparent selection process was applied and included criteria such as the relevance of the individual's personal research and the committee's assessment of the candidate's likely benefit from participating in the event.

The 2013 Master Class runs as part of the OPEN DAYS University and includes the following modules which, this year, are closed to the public:

► **MODULE 1: Master Class Opening Lecture on 'EU cohesion Policy: Economic Context, Governance Challenges and Outlook'**

This session aims to set the scene for the Master Class by outlining the current state of play of cohesion policy, focusing on the period about to begin (2014-2020) and including recent history for context. The lecture will incorporate some 'future gazing' and will be led by DG Regional and Urban Policy and Committee of the Regions' officials.



► **MODULE 2: Lecture Sessions on Understanding cohesion Policy**

The focus of this module will be on conveying insights into leading academic thinking and key policy issues and social cohesion, entrepreneurship and urban development.

► **MODULE 3: Early Career Poster Competition**

This competition is in its fourth year and is organised by the Regional Studies Association with support from DG Regional and Urban Policy and the Committee of the Regions. It is open to both PhD students and early-career researchers. In this session, six selected finalists will display their A1 size posters on stands, will explain their research and answer questions from the Jury before it retires to choose a winner and a runner-up. Commissioner Johannes Hahn will present the prizes to all the finalists.

All participants in the ODU-MC have been alerted to the poster competition but there was no obligation to enter the competition. Part of the Poster Competition selection process was to offer the six finalists the option to attend the full Master Class. The competition is open to both PhD students and early career researchers.

► **MODULE 4: World Café**

This session will take the form of managed round table discussions in small groups of 7-10 people, tackling issues currently facing cohesion policy in the European Union. Each group will be allocated a DG Regional and Urban Policy official and an academic with the expertise in the field.

This module will discuss the following issues:

- How can cohesion policy best support growth and recovery from the economic crisis in Europe?
- What factors help to explain 'success' or 'failure' of intervention through the policy?
- What is the role of administrative capacity for successful delivery of the Funds?
- What difference can a strategic approach to economic development through targeted support to research and innovation (smart specialisation) make to improving the impact of cohesion policy?

TUESDAY 08 OCTOBER 2013

MODULE 1

09:00 – 10:30 Master Class Opening Lecture: 'EU cohesion policy: economic context, governance challenges and outlook'

This introductory module will focus on EU cohesion policy for the period about to begin, 2014-2020, explaining the policy's antecedents – history, rationale and context – which led to the current set of reforms. It will also examine longer-term trends going beyond 2020 in the light of current academic debates in regional and urban development studies.

Intervention 1: EU cohesion policy: history, rationale and context. Reform for post-2013, including influences and key turning points and the renewed focus on governance, performance and evaluation for 2014-2020.

- *Ronald Hall*, European Commission, DG Regional and Urban Policy
- *Veronica Gaffey*, European Commission, DG Regional and Urban Policy

Intervention 2: The post-2013 reforms revisited: positions, conflicts and compromises: a look back at the forces in play in the political and institutional debate that led to the reforms.

- *Manuela Geleng*, European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion
- *Eric von Breska*, European Commission, DG Regional and Urban Policy

Intervention 3: The longer-term view: EU cohesion policy post-2020: recent studies and debates, introducing key academic debates and positions in regional and urban development studies.

- *Philip McCann*, University of Groningen, The Netherlands
- *Eduarda Marques da Costa*, Lisbon University, Portugal

Moderators:

- *Ana-Paula Laissy*, European Commission, DG Regional and Urban Policy
- *Wolfgang Petzold*, Committee of the Regions

Venue: Room Mansholt, Charlemagne building, Ground floor.

MODULE 2: Understanding cohesion policy – Lecture sessions**10:45 – 12:30 Social cohesion**

- *Gordon Dabinett*, Sheffield University, United Kingdom
- *Cliff Hague*, Emeritus Professor of Heriot-Watt University, United Kingdom
- *Maroš Finka*, Slovak University of Technology, Slovakia

12:30 – 12:45 Coffee break**12:45 – 13:30 Entrepreneurship**

- *Jonathan Levie*, University of Strathclyde, United Kingdom

Venue: Room Mansholt, Charlemagne building, Ground floor.

WEDNESDAY 09 OCTOBER 2013**MODULE 2: Understanding cohesion policy – Lecture sessions****9:00 – 9:45 Urban development**

- *Frank van Oort*, Utrecht University, The Netherlands
- *Teodora Brandmüller* and *Gorja Bartsch*, European Commission, Eurostat

Venue: Room Mansholt, Charlemagne building, Ground floor.

MODULE 3: Early Career Poster Competition**10:00 – 11:00 Presentations by the six finalists of the competition to the Jury**

Jury members:

- Chair: *John Bachtler*, Strathclyde University, United Kingdom
- *Rudolf Niessler*, European Commission, DG Regional and Urban Policy
- *Wolfgang Petzold*, Committee of the Regions
- *Lisa de Propriis*, University of Birmingham, United Kingdom



11:00 – 11:15 Coffee break and Jury meeting

11:15 – 11:45 Prize-giving by Commissioner *Johannes Hahn*

Question & Answer session

Venue: Charlemagne building, Mansholt room

11:45 – 13:00 Buffet lunch

Venue: Charlemagne building, Foyer in front of the Mansholt room

MODULE 4: World Café

Venue: DG Regional and Urban Policy building,
Av. de Beaulieu 5, 1160 Brussels, VIP room

**14:00 – 16:30 Cohesion policy's contribution to medium
and long-term challenges facing Europe's regions**

Welcome address: *Walter Deffaa*, Director-General for Regional
and Urban Policy, European Commission.

Coordinated by *John Bachtler*, Strathclyde University, United
Kingdom, with participation of other professors and European
institution experts.



RECOMMENDED READING AND SOURCES (PROPOSED FOR MASTER CLASS AND EXTERNAL PARTICIPANTS) RELEVANT TO ALL THE SESSIONS OF THE MASTER CLASS:

European Commission, DG Regional and Urban Policy website – Inforegio: http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/index_en.cfm

European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion website – policies and activities: <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=1>

Committee of the Regions website: <http://cor.europa.eu/Pages/welcome.html>

Regional Studies Association website: www.regionalstudies.org

European Commission (2013): EU cohesion policy contributing to growth and employment in Europe. Joint paper from the Directorate-Generals for Regional & Urban Policy and Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docgener/studies/pdf/cp_employ_growth_en.pdf

European Commission (2013): Eighth progress report on economic, social and territorial cohesion COM(2013)463: http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/information/reports/index_en.cfm

European Commission (2013): Cohesion Policy: Strategic Report 2013: http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/how/policy/strategic_report_en.cfm

European Commission (2013): DG Regional and Urban Policy's Guidance documents for 2014-2020 and Evaluation evidence at: http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/impact/evaluation/index_en.cfm

Bachtler, John/Ferry, Martin (2013): Conditionality and the performance of European Structural Funds: a principal-agent analysis of control mechanisms in European Union cohesion policy, Regional Studies, available online at <http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/cres20>

McCann, Philip/Raquel Ortega-Argilés, Raquel (2013): Redesigning and Reforming European Regional Policy: The Reasons, the Logic and the Outcomes, International Regional Science Review 36: 424-445.

Garretsen, Harry/McCann, Philip/Martin, Ron/Tyler, Peter (2013): The future of regional policy; Cambridge Journal of Regions, Economy and Society, July 2013 6 (2) <http://cjres.oxfordjournals.org/content/6/2/179.full>

McCann, Philip/Raquel Ortega-Argilés, Raquel (2013): Redesigning and Reforming European Regional Policy: The Reasons, the Logic and the Outcomes, International Regional Science Review 36: 424-445.

Mendez, Carlos (2013): The post-2013 EU cohesion policy reform and the place-based narrative; Journal of European Public Policy, Vol. 20 (5) <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/13501763.2013.793054#.Uc3etFNRIRO>

European Commission, Regional and Urban Policy DG (2012/13): Future of EU cohesion policy 2014-2020 (legislative proposals, programming process) http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/what/future/index_en.cfm

European Commission, DG Regional and Urban Policy (2012/13): Evaluating EU cohesion policy. Guidance documents for the 2014-2020 funding period: http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/information/evaluations/guidance_en.cfm#1

Dunford, Michael/Perrons, Diane (2012): Regional equality in the EU: how to finance greater cohesion? European Planning Studies, Vol. 20 (6)

Mendez, Carlos/Kah, Stefan/Bachtler, John (2012): The promise and perils of the performance turn in EU cohesion policy; European Policies Research Centre: IQ-Net Thematic Paper No. 31 (2), November 2012 http://www.eprc.strath.ac.uk/iqnet/downloads/IQ-Net_Reports%28Public%29/Thematic%20Paper_31%282%29.pdf

Storper, Michael (2011): Justice, efficiency and economic geography: should places help one another to develop?; European Urban and Regional Studies, 2011 18:3

Barca, Fabrizio (2009): An Agenda for a Reformed Cohesion Policy report: https://myintracomm.ec.europa.eu/dg/REGIO/regional_policy/future/pages/barca_report.aspx

**. POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS,
EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS**

. POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS, EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS



MR ELEFThERIOS ANTONOPOULOS

- PhD student
- European Policies Research Centre (EPRC), School of Government and Public Policy, University of Strathclyde (United Kingdom)

► How does your current research relate to European cohesion policy?

First, my PhD thesis is a study of administrative capacity building for the future management and implementation of cohesion policy in Croatia. The thesis examines the link between capacity building efforts in the pre-accession period and administrative capacity post accession. Furthermore, it draws on lessons from the EU-10 to provide recommendations on the establishment of national level coordination, management and implementation structures for cohesion policy in Croatia.

Secondly, I have been conducting research on cohesion policy operational programmes for public administration reform in Greece. Thirdly, I have recently completed a study on public procurement for innovation in the EU, using the financing of research and technology development for innovation through cohesion policy in the Greek regions as case study.

► What are your future research plans?

I intend to analyse relevant policy developments in order to produce policy papers to strengthen the policy debate on cohesion policy in Greece.

In addition, based on the case study of Croatia, I have undertaken to cover the issue of national policy coordination of cohesion policy in a research paper and a conference presentation which will take place later this year. Furthermore, I intend to study the closing of the Public Administration Reform Operational Programme in Greece under the 2007-13 programming period and provide policy advice and conclusions to the Greek Parliament and the Ministry of Administrative Reform and Digital Governance.

! I intend to analyse relevant policy developments in order to produce policy papers to strengthen the policy debate on cohesion policy in Greece. !

. POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS, EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS



DR OLENA BABINOVA

- Chief consultant
- Regional Policy and International Relations,
National Institute for Strategic Studies of Ukraine

► **How does your current research relate to European cohesion policy?**

I am a national expert on regional development in Ukraine and a government consultant in this field. Right now I am completing my postdoctoral thesis on 'The Regional Policy of Ukraine in the Context of European Integration', and European cohesion policy is the focus of a substantial part of this research.

► **What are your future research plans?**

In the context of my postdoctoral research, I will prepare several articles on the current state, approaches, problems and solutions of regional development in Europe. My main responsibility as a chief consultant at the National Institute for Strategic Studies of Ukraine is the preparation of analytical papers for the Ukrainian Government and for the President of Ukraine. After this University Master Class, I will prepare analytical papers on current EU regional policy and approaches, different solutions for the improvement of local and regional development in crisis situations, and on changes in EU cohesion policy and the Europe 2020 strategy.

! I am completing my postdoctoral thesis on 'The Regional Policy of Ukraine in the Context of European Integration', and European cohesion policy is the focus of a substantial part of this research. !

. POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS, EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS



Ms KSENIJA BANOVAC

- PhD student and researcher
- Planning Department, École Polytechnique, University François Rabelais de Tours (France)

► How does your current research relate to European cohesion policy?

I am involved in an ESPON research project, TOWN, whose main objective is to identify the role of small and medium-sized towns (SMSTs from 5 000 – 50 000 inhabitants) in European territorial development. Particular interest is given to the different territorial contexts, the potential for and barriers to socio-economic development and the governance arrangements of European SMSTs.

Another project, ODES (Observation des Dynamiques Economiques et Stratégies des villes petites et moyennes de la région Centre) seeks to identify the socio-economic dynamics of SMSTs in the Centre region, as well as the potential drivers of the local economy to create innovative public strategies.

Finally, my postgraduate research concentrates on the role of social innovation in local development. The hypothesis is that social innovation can complement local development, regardless the size of a town.

► What are your future research plans?

I plan to stay involved in the socio-economic dynamics of local development and the potential of smaller spatial scales. As a believer in the power of social dialogue and cooperation, I think local development should be integrated, inclusive and custom-made.

SMSTs often face more difficulties than large cities due to insufficient competences and resources, globalisation, etc. However, with the Europe 2020 strategy goal of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth for all territories, SMSTs have the opportunity to be recognised as equally important for territorial cohesion as large cities. I hope my future research will contribute to this.

! As a believer in the power of social dialogue and cooperation, I think local development should be integrated, inclusive and custom-made. !

. POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS, EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS



DR MARCIN BARON

- Assistant professor
- Department of Strategic and Regional Studies, University of Economics in Katowice (Poland)

► How does your current research relate to European cohesion policy?

I focus on the implementation of research and innovation strategies for smart specialisation (RIS3) in European regions. I have been involved in studies related to regional specialisations in Poland as well as in applying the EU RIS3 methodologies to regional performance and programming.

My research focuses on innovation milieux and their possible impact on regional growth. As business to business and business to science networking in Poland are strongly supported by European cohesion policy funding, there is plenty within this field of research relating to projects supporting innovation, technology transfer and networking.

I also lead a small research team, a successful method partner in ADAPT2DC (Adaptation to demographic change) a strategic project of the Central Europe Programme. ADAPT2DC aims to develop transferable strategies to provide solutions to restructure the management of services and infrastructure in shrinking regions and cities.

► What are your future research plans?

I aim to conduct a research project on policy instruments supporting smart specialisations. The project will aim to: (1) identify innovation milieux that contribute to strengthening regional smart specialisations in Polish regions; (2) analyse correlations between the dynamics and regional policy of milieux; (3) evaluate the regional smart specialisation strategies with reference to business and policy.

The project will develop a universal model describing regional policy effectiveness towards smart specialisations' enhancement. My ambition is to spread this model to other countries or to use it to establish a 'European barometer' on regional policy support to achieve smart specialisation objectives.

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. POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS, EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS



DR LAJOS BOROS

- Lecturer
- Department of Economic and Social Geography, University of Szeged (Hungary)

► How does your current research relate to European cohesion policy?

Following on from my dissertation on deprivation and exclusion from a conflict theory perspective, my current research focuses on spatial and environmental justice and the inequalities present in urban and rural spaces. I have analysed the flood-related environmental injustices in northern Hungary, finding that the deprived and mainly Roma population is more threatened by floods and their quality of life is significantly lower than the national or regional average. In addition, I have studied urban inequalities, mainly focussing on spatial exclusion, segregation, production of public spaces and the effects of globalisation on these processes. As a member the research team of POLYCE, an ESPON project, I have analysed the possibilities of polycentric urban development in central Europe.

► What are your future research plans?

I am planning to expand my knowledge on the above mentioned topics. First, I would like to focus on spatial disparities on an urban and regional scale and the social injustices related to them. As part of this topic I would like to study the social effects of industrial catastrophes. Secondly, I intend to research urban social diversity and possibilities related to cultural diversity in large urban areas. Furthermore, I will continue my previous research on public spaces, focusing mainly on zoning and exclusion in urban spaces.

‘I have analysed the flood-related environmental injustices in northern Hungary, finding that the deprived and mainly Roma population is more threatened by floods and their quality of life is significantly lower than the national or regional average.’

. POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS, EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS



Ms DORINE BOUMANS

- PhD Student
- European Policies Research Centre (EPRC), School of Government and Public Policy, University of Strathclyde (United Kingdom)

► **How does your current research relate to European cohesion policy?**

My main focus is the implementation of EU cohesion policy in the Scottish context. Specifically, the research explores the different strategic delivery mechanisms used to implement cohesion policy in Scotland and how these influence efficient performance.

This analysis is grounded in on-going debates on the prominence of partnership-based approaches to public policy implementation and its relationship with efficient delivery. What does partnership mean in practice and what is its influence on the efficient implementation of programmes and projects?

This research will contribute to thinking on how to combine the partnership principle with strong performance management and intervention logic in the future implementation of EU cohesion policy.

► **What are your future research plans?**

Over the next few years, I intend to extend my knowledge of implementation structures and their influence on performance. I also aim to combine the study of Scotland with other EU countries or regions.

By analysing implementation structures and the performance of projects across EU countries, I will contribute to the knowledge of enhancing performance in EU cohesion policy, both on an academic level as well as in practice.

At the moment, my insights are based on interviews with people working on the ground; I intend to further strengthen my analysis by combing that with insights from people working on a more strategic and EU level. In order to do this, I will further develop my understanding of different quantitative and qualitative methods.

! This analysis is grounded in on-going debates on the prominence of partnership-based approaches to public policy implementation and its relationship with efficient delivery. !

. POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS, EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS



MR PÁL BOZA

- PhD student
- Department of Environmental Economics, Budapest University of Technical Sciences (Hungary)

► How does your current research relate to European cohesion policy?

My research relates to the modelling of European policy networks through interregional cooperation programmes, which are part of the European Territorial Cooperation objective of European cohesion policy. More specifically, I am focussing on the interregional cooperation programme (Interreg IVC) and the three networking programmes (Urbact II, Interact II and ESPON).

Understanding the general structure of the network of interregional programmes and the motivation of the beneficiaries of a particular Member State for participating in interregional cooperation programmes can provide a better view of how these four programmes function as governance networks.

The general aims laid down in the programme documents and the evidence from the research have to be compared. Thus the result of the research could lead to policy feedback for programme planners and managers on how to adjust future measures for shaping these networks to achieve policy aims.

► What are your future research plans?

I would like to concentrate in more detail on cross-border cooperation along the Hungarian-Slovak border and to evaluate the results of the Hungarian Slovak cross-border programme 2007-2013.

! The result of the research could lead to policy feedback for programme planners and managers on how to adjust future measures for shaping these networks to achieve policy aims. !

. POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS, EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS



Ms ZANE BULDERBERGA

- PhD student
- Faculty of Economics, Latvia University of Agriculture (Latvia)

► How does your current research relate to European cohesion policy?

My research aims to evaluate the economic aspects of interaction between urban and rural municipalities in Latvian regions in order to identify possibilities to improve sustainable territorial and spatial development.

These issues are very topical to Latvia, as its spatial structure has undergone significant changes both in terms of population size and the governance of administrative territories. Since 1935 when the majority of population lived in rural areas, the population has continuously moved to cities. Therefore it is important to minimise the negative effects of urbanisation through effective interaction between cities and rural areas, coordinating the flows of goods, services, and knowledge in both directions.

Territorial cohesion focuses on providing equal access to these resources for all residents, regardless of their place of residence.

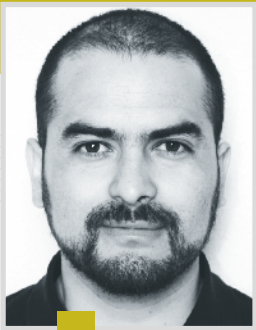
► What are your future research plans?

My main tasks in next two years are to: improve the methodology of rural/urban area classification in accordance with EU methodology; identify the factors affecting interaction between rural and urban areas which are key to sustainable development; and to identify future development opportunities and make recommendations to improve regional and spatial policy.

As a result, it is expected that implementing the recommendations will help national and regional institutions to develop legislation and policy documents, as well as implement measures to reduce disparities in urban and rural development by providing equal opportunities to all citizens.

It is important to minimise the negative effects of urbanisation through effective interaction between cities and rural areas.

. POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS, EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS



MR JUAN OCTAVIO CERVANTES DUEÑAS

- PhD candidate, researcher
- Urban Studies and Social Research, Bauhaus University Weimar (Germany)

► How does your current research relate to European cohesion policy?

My research – ‘National sustainable development strategies and environmental governance rescaling: case studies of specific urban areas – Potsdam, Germany and Oxford, UK’ – highlights the differences in governmental, political, and economic institutions in Germany and the United Kingdom; Germany as a case of a coordinated market economy and the United Kingdom as a case of a liberal market economy.

The aim is to evaluate how the overarching infrastructure of each country can alter the objectives of the national strategy for sustainable development and how this in turn may influence environmental governance on a regional scale.

The European Union and particularly the European Commission, through the institution-building process, delineates policy in accordance with its own policy and regulatory styles with the hope of minimising the cost of subsequent political and administrative adjustment. So, it could be said that the EU’s strategy for sustainable development is the motor that drives the sustainable development strategies of Germany and the UK.

► What are your future research plans?

My focus will stay on Europe as it is one of the most progressive regions in the world in terms of sustainability.

Therefore, I am thinking of developing a comparison between one western European state and one eastern, focusing on post-1990s governmental, political, and economic issues.

The main objective is to identify the ways in which the financial framework of each country has defined the way in which sustainability is approached.

It could be said that the EU’s strategy for sustainable development is the motor that drives the sustainable development strategies of Germany and the UK. †

. POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS, EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS



DR RAFFAELLA COLETTI

- Research fellow
- Methods and Models for Economics, Territory and Finance (MEMOTEF), The Sapienza University of Rome (Italy)

► How does your current research relate to European cohesion policy?

I am currently involved in the project, EU Border Regions, whose goal is to identify challenges to economic, social and territorial cohesion and the regional development potential in the EU's borderlands. After a working paper on the geopolitical dimension of EU Relations with its neighbourhood, I am now dealing with a case study of the Italy/Tunisia border, with special focus on the territories of the Sicilian southern shore.

The aim of my research is to understand to what extent cross-border cooperation initiatives are influencing development paths in Sicily and Tunisia. The analysis of these cross-border relations is closely connected with the analysis of the initiatives carried out under European cohesion policy in Sicily, in order to understand how to make best use of the different funds.

► What are your future research plans?

In the immediate future, I will continue my research activities on cohesion policy and cross-border cooperation initiatives in Sicily. Furthermore I will help to organise two stakeholder forums in Sicily and Tunisia on the perspectives of cross-border cooperation, in the framework of regional development policies in both territories.

I'm also planning to work on a paper on territorial cooperation for territorial development in the Western Balkans, in particular in the Adriatic-Ionian macro-region. I would like to consider the development perspective of the Adriatic territories, taking into account the impact of the accession of Croatia to the EU.

! The aim of my research is to understand to what extent cross-border cooperation initiatives are influencing development paths in Sicily and Tunisia. !

. POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS, EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS



DR LÁSZLÓ CSÁK

- Guest lecturer
- Faculty of Sociology and Social Work, Babes-Bolyai University (Romania)

► How does your current research relate to European cohesion policy?

My research focuses mainly on territorial planning, town planning and spatial planning in Romania and cohesion policy in Romania and in the 'Visegrád' countries (the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia).

Currently as the research coordinator, I am working in a team of five researchers analysing cohesion policy and regional development in Romania. Our research centres on; the trends and changes, mostly at NUTS 3 level; the regional governance structures and the management of EU Funds; and the policy options for the 2014-2020 the programming period.

► What are your future research plans?

Regarding the approach to regional energy governance, I think energy issues should be handled at regional level (both NUTS 2 and 3), not just at national and local level. Therefore, I would like to establish a model, based on regional science and energy management. This model will look at how a regional approach to energy governance can help to reach cohesion goals, by means of regional innovation, regional capital, reducing fuel poverty, and optimising the renewable energy resources' market.

As for cohesion policy in Romania, in my thesis I have demonstrated that the state and its institutions have a 'mimetic' approach to EU policies and that this contributes to the low performance of regional development in Romania. Therefore, I would like to focus on new spatial development tools to identify if they have added value in Romania, and if the risk of 'paper partnerships' is properly dealt with.

Regarding the approach to regional energy governance, I think energy issues should be handled at regional level (both NUTS 2 and 3), not just at national and local level.

. POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS, EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS



MRS MAAIKE DAMEN-KOEDIJK

- PhD student
- School of Management and Governance,
University of Twente (The Netherlands)

► How does your current research relate to European cohesion policy?

Does cohesion policy really alleviate economic disparities in the European Union? Interestingly, the views from various academics indicate that there is no clear indication of the effects. Financial management is also a problem; the error rate of cohesion policy has never been below the 2% threshold, high compared to other policy areas. Thirdly, the current monitoring arrangements within cohesion policy focus particularly on the absorption of resources, rather than strategic management.

These problems lead to the legitimacy problem of cohesion policy, which makes it interesting to look at its accountability in such multilevel structures. Principal agent theory will be used to describe the relationships between cohesion policy actors.

Following the theory, the empirical part of the research will focus on the situation in Member States, to find out whether the cornerstones of good accountability are present and what the difference are between these Member States.

► What are your future research plans?

Alongside my PhD studies, I also work for a management authority working on implementation of cohesion policy in the Netherlands. I will continue my work and research on the management of cohesion policy as well as looking into how to organise it so that cohesion policy is economically efficient and effective.

‘Does cohesion policy really alleviate economic disparities in the European Union? Interestingly, the views from various academics indicate that there is no clear indication of the effects.’

. POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS, EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS



DR RANI DANG

- Assistant professor
- GREDEG (Unit for mixed research n°7321),
National Centre for Scientific Research and University of Nice (France)

► How does your current research relate to European cohesion policy?

I work in the field of regional innovation, looking at what creates a successful ecosystem for business. My research explores the specificities of regional contexts (industrial patterns and regional specificities) to help small and medium enterprises (SMEs) innovate through collaboration within European regions.

There is a real gap between the efforts to help SMEs through local innovation and the results achieved. Therefore, the research I have been developing in my doctoral thesis and as an early career researcher is concerned with the problem of SMEs' involvement in collaborative innovation within regional clusters.

This research is particularly relevant to European cohesion policy in so far as it is targeting economic smart growth and social cohesion in EU Member States and their regions.

► What are your future research plans?

The objective of my thesis was to identify the specificities of regional innovation dynamics in different European countries in order to better understand how to help SMEs get involved in innovative activities that would lead to job creation.

I identified distinct regional dynamics which I used to explain why SMEs in some regional contexts are successful while in others they are not. I also developed a grounded model of regional innovation dynamics and SME integration in localised innovation. However this research need to be developed further, and I am currently working with Sweden to extend it to other European countries.

‘There is a real gap between the efforts to help SMEs through local innovation and the results achieved.’

. POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS, EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS



MRS ASLI TEPECIK DIŞ

- Research fellow, Industrial PhD candidate
- Nordic Centre for Spatial Development (Nordregio) and Division of Urban and Regional Studies, Royal Institute of Technology (Sweden)

► How does your current research relate to European cohesion policy?

European cohesion policy is at the heart of my research which aims to address the 'third dimension' of cohesion policy; territorial cohesion. Currently I am engaged in two EPSON projects: GREECO (Territorial Potentials for a Greener Economy) and ITAN (Integrated Territorial Analyses of the Neighbourhoods).

GREECO aims to identify the territorial aspects and potentials related to pursuit of a greener economy in order to highlight areas with particular opportunities for contribution through successful territorial development and cohesion actions. I am responsible for writing a report targeting territorial analysis of the green economy from a sectorial perspective with a focus on tourism.

Within ITAN, the project will present the basic regional socio-economic status and development trends for the neighbourhoods. It will clarify on which territorial level actions can be taken to support the implementation of territorial neighbourhood policy by focusing on territorial structures.

► What are your future research plans?

My background is in regional sustainable development in Nordic-Baltic Europe and I am seeking to deepen this expertise by looking for new challenges at higher levels of research. I think I can achieve this by combining applied research projects through my employment with Nordregio and my PhD study.

My studies will investigate and analyse how different forms of multi-level governance processes will affect green growth in the Baltic Sea Region and in its neighbouring territories.

My background is in regional sustainable development in Nordic-Baltic Europe and I am seeking to deepen this expertise by looking for new challenges at higher levels of research.

**. POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS,
EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS****MR WOJCIECH MARCIN DYBA**

- PhD candidate
- Institute of Socio-Economic Development and Spatial Management, Department of Regional Policy and European Integration, Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan (Poland)

► **How does your current research relate to European cohesion policy?**

My current PhD research work concentrates on spatial organisation and the functioning of economic networks in western Poland. In my PhD thesis I am investigating different networks and their influence on regional and local development.

In particular, my studies deal with two kinds of networks: those created in regions by large transnational corporations and those that are created by small and medium enterprises in so-called economic clusters. An important part of my studies is devoted to regional policy and the role of EU funds in supporting innovative industrial networks in the Polish economy.

I have published the results of my research in several articles. Two of these were closely connected to EU regional policy classification and the policy of supporting clusters in Wielkopolska voivodeship (2012) and the largest companies in Wielkopolska voivodeship and their multiplier effects in the region (2013, in printing).

► **What are your future research plans?**

I intend to continue with my PhD studies, which I expect to complete in 2011.

! An important part of my studies is devoted to regional policy and the role of EU funds in supporting innovative industrial networks in the Polish economy. !

. POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS, EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS



MR MARKUS EGERMANN

- PhD student, junior researcher, German National Contact Point in the INTERREG IV B Programme 'CENTRAL EUROPE'
- Strategic Questions and Perspectives, Leibniz Institute of Ecological Urban and Regional Development (Germany)

► How does your current research relate to European cohesion policy?

My research addresses the territorial dimension of European cohesion policy (Objective 3), recently focussing on ensuring territorial cohesion across national borders.

Since 2011 I have also been the German national contact point within the INTERREG IV B Programme 'Central Europe'. Therefore part of my research focuses on transnational cooperation in central and eastern Europe, which is also the core of my teaching on European Spatial Development at the Technical University of Dresden.

Urban-rural partnerships and metropolitan governance systems are key aspects in all my research projects. The results from my research on the German policy concept of 'European metropolitan regions' and institutional capacity building among urban, rural and peripheral areas in 11 German regions can prove valuable in fostering territorial cohesion across administrative borders in European regions.

► What are your future research plans?

First, I will observe European territorial development and cooperation programmes with the evaluation of European regional policy instruments and the concept of macro-regional strategies being core interests.

Secondly, I will pursue comparative research on spatial planning systems in different European countries. Here spatial planning, legal bases and the institutional system as well as the development and implementation of different planning strategies and instruments will be of interest.

Thirdly, I will build on the results of my doctoral thesis to focus on regional governance to coordinate actions between local actors in order to foster regional competitiveness while ensuring cohesion.

Urban-rural partnerships and metropolitan governance systems are key aspects in all my research projects.

. POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS, EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS



Ms ILDIKÓ EGYED

- Junior research fellow
- Transdanubian Research Department, Research Centre for Economic and Regional Studies, Hungarian Academy of Sciences (Hungary)

► How does your current research relate to European cohesion policy?

I am currently studying French regional policy from its birth in the 1950s and its positive and negative experiences such as the ever present dilemma of national regional policy: to focus funds on a small number of regions with significant growth potential or devote more resources to depressed areas struggling with economic restructuring.

During the past year, I have participated in a project on local government investments in energy efficiency programmes. As part of this project, I investigated French environmental policy and its relationship to EU cohesion policy during the next programming period. I studied national climate plans and their relation to local urban planning documents which quantified the national and supranational objectives adapted to the local context

It is crucial to contrast the national specificities and experiences with the prevailing EU standards to detect the causes of the poor performance of certain eastern European regions.

► What are your future research plans?

To write my PhD thesis on the successful and controversial experiences of regional policy in France and its co-evolution with EU regional policy. I will compare it with Hungarian efforts in the creation of artificial (programming) NUTS 2 regions which lack any identity and remain weak actors in the Hungarian public administration system.

I will also devote an individual chapter to new trends in regional policy (smart growth, sustainable cities, eco-district investments, and renewable energy).

It is crucial to contrast the national specificities and experiences with the prevailing EU standards to detect the causes of the poor performance of certain eastern European regions.

. POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS, EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS



DR ANNA FARMAKI

- Lecturer
- School of Business and Management, University of Central Lancashire Cyprus (Cyprus)

► How does your current research relate to European cohesion policy?

I am currently researching rural tourism development in Cyprus from an economic and social perspective and examining the competitiveness of rural regions.

As such, my research complies with the aims of the EU cohesion policy, which intends to diversify rural areas in Europe with a declining agricultural sector and minimise economic and social discrepancies between European countries. As the island of Cyprus is reliant on tourism, rural tourism development can be a resource-efficient and economically viable developmental strategy in the long term for rural communities.

I am currently exploring the concept of responsible tourism as the successful implementation of rural tourism may alleviate environmental pressures experienced in coastal regions. Consequently, my research findings could provide valuable information which can be generalised to other destinations in Europe.

► What are your future research plans?

I intend to continue exploring sustainable competitiveness among rural regions in Cyprus and the formation of tourism clusters in these areas. Opportunities were identified in terms of thematic cluster formation and the need for an integrated rural system was emphasised. Therefore in the future I will further examine cooperation among tourism stakeholders in an attempt to maximise the benefits of tourism development.

In addition, I intend to continue my research on sustainable tourism, which is currently being performed in collaboration with the Cyprus Sustainable Tourism Initiative.

Future research findings will also be presented at international conferences and symposiums and I will pursue their publication.

! I am currently exploring the concept of responsible tourism as the successful implementation of rural tourism may alleviate environmental pressures experienced in coastal regions. !

. POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS, EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS



MR BENJAMIN GARDINER

- PhD student
- Department of Geography, University of Cambridge (United Kingdom)

► How does your current research relate to European cohesion policy?

My research looks at the regional impact of recession across Europe – resilience to the initial shock and the effect on long-term recovery. By covering the period 1980-2011, I can analyse the effects of previous downturns alongside contemporary effects from the current financial crisis.

My work aims to cover a variety of region definitions to develop meaningful typologies, undertake robust estimation, and observe the different effects at different spatial levels.

The link to cohesion policy is primarily through the convergence objective, ‘.. helping those regions whose per capita gross domestic product (GDP) is less than 75 % of the EU to catch up with the ones which are better off.’ Nationwide shocks, such as recession and crisis, enable us to see whether regions’ long-term growth trajectories are affected by such events, and how policy may have to be adjusted to cope with this.

► What are your future research plans?

In the coming few years I will continue with my PhD at Cambridge. During this period I would also like to carry on publishing papers on regional recovery and resilience.

During 2010-12 I was a researcher at the Institute of Prospective Technological Studies (JRC-IPTS) in Seville, helping to construct a model to look at the economic, social and environmental impact of Structural and Cohesion Funds. This period sharpened my interest in European regional issues and regional modeling, and I hope to continue working in this area when my PhD studies are completed.

‘ Nationwide shocks, such as recession and crisis, enable us to see whether regions’ long-term growth trajectories are affected by such events, and how policy may have to be adjusted to cope with this. ’

. POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS, EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS



MR MARTIN GAUK

- PhD student
- Geography Department, University of Tartu (Estonia)

► How does your current research relate to European cohesion policy?

My current research deals with the issues of urban planning and its implications on energy conservation and climate change mitigation strategies. Namely, how different policies on different spatial dimensions (from the local to the rural-urban-region, to the national and European levels) influence urban sprawl, land use change, resource management, energy use and greenhouse gas emissions.

This is highly relevant within the European cohesion policy framework, as the urban dimension is the main territorial dimension of cohesion policy. The coordination of land use policies and Structural and Cohesion Funds remains key to supporting both the containment and expansion of urban sprawl.

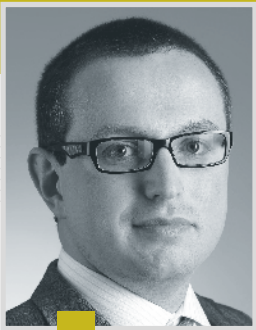
► What are your future research plans?

Energy efficiency and climate change mitigation strategies are becoming increasingly important in the European, national, regional and local development agendas. Currently, the biggest potentials for energy savings within EU policies are seen in the building and transport sectors.

Against this backdrop, I aim to further explore the controversies between growth and sustainability within the framework of diverse policies on different spatial levels. I will do this by analysing the development specifics of urban expansion and its impacts on residential and transportation energy use and CO₂ emissions as well as the policy options for energy saving possibilities.

! The coordination of land use policies and Structural and Cohesion Funds remains key to supporting both the containment and expansion of urban sprawl. !

. POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS, EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS



DR VIHAR GEORGIEV

- Lecturer
- European Studies Department,
Sofia University 'St. Kliment Ohridski' (Bulgaria)

► How does your current research relate to European cohesion policy?

My current research focuses on the comitology procedures and the adoption of delegated acts by the European Commission. My dissertation focused on the institutional dynamic of the executive powers of the integration community and outlined the factors that influence it. It also mapped out possible dimensions of further institutional shifts in the executive powers of the European Commission.

The focus of my research on delegated and implementing acts, and the practical aspects of the functioning of the national coordination mechanism for participation in the EU decision-making process, is closely related to the field of European cohesion policy. The implications of the institutional dynamics on cohesion policy and the specificity of these acts are important aspects of my research interests.

► What are your future research plans?

In the future I plan to continue my research on various aspects of the procedures for the adoption of delegated and implementing acts by the European Commission, focusing on emerging trends and specific practical problems, such as the formalisation of the consultation with stakeholders.

In addition, I would like to expand my research to the functioning of the Bulgarian coordination mechanism for participation in the EU decision-making process. In both areas I will focus on European cohesion policy as an important EU policy with substantial impact on Bulgarian policy.

! I would like to expand my research to the functioning of the Bulgarian coordination mechanism for participation in the EU decision-making process. !

. POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS, EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS



Ms SARAH HOWE

- PhD student
- School of Global, Urban and Social Studies, RMIT University (Australia)

► **How does your current research relate to European cohesion policy?**

My research relates to European cohesion policy and aims to address the role of local leaders in the design of regional operational programmes established under this policy.

The research will address the role of regional business and community leaders in designing economic development plans – studying selected regions under cohesion policy. The success of the policy in these regions will be measured by economic growth data such as rates of GDP and employment growth.

This is of interest in the Australian context as regional development policy is less about macroeconomic industry policy assistance overseen by the Australian government, with economic development policy settings increasingly focused more at regional level.

Australian regional policy can be informed by an assessment of the role of regional actors under cohesion policy, given that for the past 18 years, the policy has focussed on regional actors becoming active players.

► **What are your future research plans?**

My future research plans continue with the study of EU cohesion policy. For my current research I will also need to interview key stakeholders in the regions and analyse policy documents to appraise the policy outcomes in economic development.

Upon completion of my studies, I hope to undertake further study in Europe assessing this policy area and drawing conclusions that can assist in the future development of Australian regional economic development policy.

‘Australian regional policy can be informed by an assessment of the role of regional actors under cohesion policy.’

. POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS, EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS



MR ALOIS HUMER

- University assistant and PhD candidate
- Department of Geography and Regional Research, University of Vienna (Austria)

► **How does your current research relate to European cohesion policy?**

My PhD thesis is about the provision of 'services of general interest' (SGI) in an EU context. Basic services, such as education, healthcare, care of the elderly, mobility & communication facilities and energy supply, predetermine people's abilities to earn a living and fully participate in the labour market. This is why fair access to SGI is a clear EU goal in relation to territorial cohesion and social inclusion and seen as an integral part of the European social model.

I'm investigating the (territorial) policy modes behind SGI and the standards of provision within European states and regions. New forms of governance and finance for SGI have to be explored and European cohesion policy may be a prime arena for the solutions.

► **What are your future research plans?**

After finalising my PhD in autumn 2013, I want to continue working in both the academic and practitioners' spheres, either as an applied researcher or a research-based practitioner.

I have learnt the value of combining these spheres of interest from transferring my experience as an ESPON national contact point for Austria to my PhD studies. I wish to continue along this career path.

‘New forms of governance and finance for services of general interest have to be explored and European cohesion policy may be a prime arena for the solutions.’

. POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS, EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS



DR LUO JING

- Assistant researcher
- Research Centre of the Chinese Borderland, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (China)

► **How does your current research relate to European cohesion policy?**

My research focus on the borderland areas of China is concerned with how these areas interact with the inland area. My research aims to explore how central government is affected by the borderlands and how the borderlands act under the influence of central government.

The Chinese borderlands can learn a lot from both the successes and failures of European cohesion policy.

► **What are your future research plans?**

In the future I want to contribute to research on the Chinese borderlands. Further exploration needs to be done on how successful interaction is between central government and the borderland areas. Policy plays a crucial role in determining the outcome of this interaction.

‘The Chinese borderlands can learn a lot from both the successes and failures of European cohesion policy.’

. POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS, EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS



MR ANTONIOS KARVOUNIS

- Expert on EU Programmes and International Partnerships of Local Government
- Financial and Development Policy of Local Government, Hellenic Ministry of Interior (Greece)

► **How does your current research relate to European cohesion policy?**

The main idea of my PhD thesis entitled 'City Diplomacy and Europeanisation: The Role of City Networks in the Modernisation of Greek Local Government' is to highlight the importance of EU multi-level coordination in the modernisation of Greek cities through a process of interregional cooperation and interaction with local and regional initiatives through cohesion policy.

The model of the city of the future needs to go through networking with other cities, taking advantage of common resources and synergies during the period of financial crisis, with the aim of reaching necessary means and knowledge to obtain its development and thus achieve sustainable cities of the future.

► **What are your future research plans?**

I aim to provide academia with an inside view of the international partnerships of local authorities. Indeed, what is missing from the discipline of public administration here in Greece is the experience and managerial view of city diplomacy on European and international levels.

I plan to publish a guide about European and international partnerships of local and regional governments and in particular, about the historical, institutional and practical dimensions of Greek local government involvement in international cluster logic. I hope it will not only be a useful tool for professionals of public administration, but also for researchers in the field of cohesion policy.

! Indeed, what is missing from the discipline of public administration here in Greece is the experience and managerial view of city diplomacy on European and international levels. !

. POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS, EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS



DR ARTUR KASZA

- Lecturer
- Department of Law, Chair of Social Sciences,
European School of Law and Administration (Poland)

► How does your current research relate to European cohesion policy?

My current research focuses on the strategic and operational level of cohesion policy, bringing together policy analysis and programme management perspectives. A central issue for the Member States, who are implementing these programmes on the ground, is how to select a project.

In Poland, since its entry into the EU, project selection has mainly been done through project competition. My research demonstrates that, while providing access to a large and diverse number of beneficiaries – which is positive – project competition also produces negative effects such as politicisation, local particularities and rivalries.

The southern Voivodeship of Silesia has experimentally opted to prioritise programmes, in the territorial context, by delegating the operational programming to the sub-regional level. The resulting sub-regional operational programmes are the focus my research.

► What are your future research plans?

In the future I intend to look at the theme of regionalisms and regionalisation in Europe. The currently observable processes in Europe are giving new interest to this topic. Amidst the crisis, several regions appear to have increased their political will for independence: Catalonia and Scotland are planning independence referendums and Belgium is ridden by conflict.

Literature demonstrates the ways which European integration, especially the Structural Funds, have given the regions a channel through which to articulate their regional identity. It is therefore worthwhile investigating factors of, and the relationships between regionalism, regionalisation and EU cohesion policy.

✓ Literature demonstrates the ways which European integration, especially the Structural Funds, have given the regions a channel through which to articulate their regional identity. ✓

. POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS, EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS



MR PAVEL KOBYLIN

- Post-graduate student
- Department of Social and Economic Geography and Regional Studies, V.N. Karazin Kharkiv National University (Ukraine)

► How does your current research relate to European cohesion policy?

My current research relates to the development of social infrastructure of the Kharkiv region in Ukraine. Social infrastructure includes systems of education, health, social welfare, culture, public transport, trade, business etc. and is a priority target of funding within European cohesion policy.

Although Ukraine is not an EU member, the European Commission allocates funds using the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) for the development of infrastructure projects in regions and countries which cooperate closely with the European Union. These funds are provided in order to reduce the significant economic, social and territorial disparities.

In my studies, I am conducting a general analysis of the territorial features of the social infrastructure development in the Kharkiv region. This allows me to see where disparities remain.

► What are your future research plans?

I am planning to conduct a comprehensive analysis of the social infrastructure development in the region by cluster and factor analysis. This will allow us to assess how developed sectors in a particular district are and then to make recommendations.

I will also determine the place of the Kharkiv region in the social infrastructure system of Ukraine with the help of the linear scaling method. It will help to determine the rating of the Kharkiv region in the development of a certain sector (e.g. health, education) and in social infrastructure as a whole. As a result, recommendations can be made if a sector is below the average indicator for Ukraine.

Although Ukraine is not an EU member, the European Commission allocates funds using the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) for the development of infrastructure projects.

. POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS, EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS



Ms KAGIARA KONSTANTINA

- Researcher
- Research Centre, Athens University of Economics and Business (Greece)

► How does your current research relate to European cohesion policy?

My dissertation was focused on the analysis of cohesion policy in the period of economic crisis and its impact in Greece. Specifically, I examined the process of shaping the institutional framework of cohesion policy, as well as the revised Lisbon Strategy.

I assessed the effects of cohesion policy and key features in the period 2007-2013, and presented the results of cohesion policy in Greece. Finally, I examined the 'place-based policy' theory, and the 'cohesion policy 2014-2020', as well as proposals for investments related to development and employment.

► What are your future research plans?

My future research plans are focused in the field of regional inequalities in education, taking into consideration the significant geographic disparities in education. Specifically, it seems that a gap exists between the North and the South, with the highest percentages of people with low education level in the areas of southern Europe. Despite commitments by Member States to promote equality in education and training, and notably the efforts of Spain and Portugal, large geographical disparities in education persist.

Confronting geographical inequalities in education is a prerequisite for balanced regional development and social cohesion. Structural Funds should be used as a tool to confront European inequalities. I will carry out thorough research to discover the causes of this phenomenon and to propose solutions for its reduction.

! Confronting geographical inequalities in education is a prerequisite for balanced regional development and social cohesion. !

. POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS, EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS



Ms IRYNA KRISTENSEN

- Doctoral researcher
- Salzburg Centre of European Union Studies, University of Salzburg (Austria)

► How does your current research relate to European cohesion policy?

My PhD research focuses on regional innovation policy and the analysis of the role of Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) in the regional innovation processes. It is the first attempt to comprehensively analyse the use of PPPs in regional innovation policy by regional actors within one country.

In recent years, there has been a surge of interest in the role PPPs play in fostering innovation and fortifying regional/national competitiveness, leading to a number of government initiatives. Given that, public-private partnerships should be seen as a major policy instrument for achieving EU cohesion policy objectives e.g. to encourage inter-regional as well as inter-sectoral cooperation and to enhance national/regional competitiveness by creating a synthesis of public research competency and commercial business practices.

► What are your future research plans?

Public-Private Partnerships have proved successful in performing functions related to interface management and interactive learning. However, current study has also revealed a great diversity of PPP use in regional innovation policy regarding PPP forms, roles assigned to each involved partner and the potential to function as a systemic instrument. This poses problems for comparability of obtained results.

My further research plans, therefore, concentrate on how internal collaborative processes among organisations engaged in partnership work shape cooperation. My focus will be on functional principles of PPP selected from highly developed industrial regions and from remote regions along with different regulatory, political and economic frameworks to improve generalisability of the results.

! Public-private partnerships should be seen as a major policy instrument for achieving EU cohesion policy objectives. !

. POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS, EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS



Ms LAILA KŪLE

- PhD candidate
- Faculty of Geography and Earth Sciences, University of Latvia (Latvia)

► **How does your current research relate to European cohesion policy?**

My PhD paper is on urban-rural interactions and policy implications in Latvia. I have also contributed to a number of publications on these themes

► **What are your future research plans?**

I am planning to finalise my PhD paper this year and my professional aim is to become a full-time lecturer and/or researcher on aspects of regional development and planning. I wish to write more on territorial cohesion, spatial planning and urban-rural relations in order to inform an international audience about the particular situation in Latvia.

I am open to looking for research opportunities in neighbouring Member States. I also hope to get funding in order to cooperate with other EU researchers on the issue of territorial cohesion.

‘I wish to write more on territorial cohesion, spatial planning and urban-rural relations in order to inform an international audience about the particular situation in Latvia.’

. POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS, EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS



DR VIKTOR KVĚTOŇ

- Early career researcher
- Department of Social Geography and Regional Development, Faculty of Science, Charles University in Prague (Czech Republic)

► How does your current research relate to European cohesion policy?

The research focuses on the evaluation of cohesion policy interventions in the Czech Republic. Over the last few years I have participated in various types of research projects along this theme. I have mainly used quantitative approaches (statistical analysis – multinomial regression, geographically weighted regression, cluster analysis etc.) but also qualitative analysis of case studies at project level.

An aim of my previous analysis was to determine the contributions of cohesion policy to regional convergence in the Czech Republic and evaluate labour market interventions resulting from cohesion policy on the employment rate.

► What are your future research plans?

Among my future plans, I aim to improve my methodological background to help with the above-mentioned analysis. I would also like to analyse the effects of cohesion policy at municipality level, in order to compare local development in municipalities which have not received cohesion policy funds with those which have seen high levels of funding.

Finally I would also like to analyse the effects of cohesion policy and its contribution to innovation and the research process in the Czech Republic.

! I would also like to analyse the effects of cohesion policy and its contribution to innovation and the research process in the Czech Republic. !

. POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS, EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS



MR AXEL LEISENBERG

- Student
- Institut des Hautes Etudes Européennes (IEP – Centre d'études européennes), University of Strasbourg (France)

► How does your current research relate to European cohesion policy?

My current master's in European Studies is an interdisciplinary programme that concentrates on political, juridical, economic and historic aspects of European integration. Cohesion policy is therefore a large part of the curriculum.

I am focusing on the policy's objectives and instruments in its macroeconomic environment and with regard to the Europe 2020 strategy (in particular the territorial dimension and the cohesion policy's contribution to achieving these objectives), but also on the historic development of the 'Europe of the region' concept.

Research on European cohesion policy in connection with different stakeholders' interests in the Committee of the Regions is a very important topic in my current research, as are developments in the construction of a multi-level governance system in general.

► What are your future research plans?

In my research oriented master programme I will develop a deeper understanding of the conception of 'Europe' and its process of regional integration as well as Europeanisation effects.

The current programming period 2006-2013 is coming to an end and the European institutions have already started with discussions on the framework of the future cohesion policy. The evaluation of the outcomes and the impact of the instruments on the objectives is an important factor in the planning for 2014-2020. What is the regions' and cities' role in this process? How does the output of the Committee of the Regions influence the upcoming legal acts? These questions are going to guide my future research.

Research on European cohesion policy in connection with different stakeholders' interests in the Committee of the Regions is a very important topic in my current research, as are developments in the construction of a multi-level governance system in general.

• POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS, EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS



MR KRISTIJAN LEŽAIĆ

- Senior expert advisor, National Contact Point for South East Europe and Mediterranean Transnational Programmes 2007-2013
- Department for European Territorial Cooperation, Ministry of Regional Development and EU Funds (Croatia)

► How does your current research relate to European cohesion policy?

My current research aims to assess the absorption capacity of municipalities in the County of Krapinsko-Zagorska in north-west Croatia. According to data, this county has implemented very few EU projects, especially at municipality level.

The research is at the heart of cohesion policy as the aim is to assess the capacity of the municipalities to apply for and implement EU projects. As a Member State of the EU, Croatia will now have greater allocations at its disposal. Therefore it is crucial to assess and remedy the situation on the field regarding absorption capacities, EU project development and implementation.

The research will be especially focused on transnational programmes and possibilities for participation.

► What are your future research plans?

After the initial assessment of the current state of play regarding EU project cycle management and awareness of possibilities to apply for EU projects, a needs assessment and a tailor-made seminar and training plan will be made.

The goal of the research is to increase awareness of EU funds. As the Krapina-Zagorje County has one of the lowest GDPs per capita in Croatia, increased awareness is necessary to boost local development and employment.

With specialised training offered by the Ministry, people in municipality administration will be trained and supported in their efforts to apply for calls for proposals. Municipalities require a specific approach and their progress in EU funding applications after this applied research will be monitored.

! The goal of the research is to increase awareness of EU funds. As the Krapina-Zagorje County has one of the lowest GDPs per capita in Croatia, increased awareness is necessary to boost local development and employment. !

. POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS, EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS



MRS MERLE LOORING

- PhD student, lecturer on Environmental Management
- Department of Geography, University of Tartu (Estonia)

► How does your current research relate to European cohesion policy?

Coastal regions have always attracted people for a variety of reasons ranging from subsistence to recreation. The relatively high proportion of second homes in rural communities and municipalities has a significant impact on the local population level. The increasing seasonal population also brings changes in host communities such as increased demand for local services and infrastructure.

Early on, the seasonal population needs to engage in dialogue with local action groups to make sure that their needs and concerns are known and taken into account when designing local strategies and programmes.

My research focuses on coastal populations' perspectives, seasonal/summer communities' participation in activities of local action groups (LEADER groups), and cooperation in local services and infrastructure. Community-led local development is area-based and is an ideal methodology for building linkages between interested population groups.

► What are your future research plans?

Managing authorities will need to engage in capacity-building activities to ensure that local communities, especially those in coastal areas with seasonal populations, are able to fully participate.

This can be achieved by building local action groups and formulating viable strategies. My future research plan is to define the methodology and criteria for coastal communities for drawing up local development strategies and ensuring seasonal population participation in the local decision-making process to build community capacity and stimulate social innovation and entrepreneurship.

Managing authorities will need to engage in capacity-building activities to ensure that local communities, especially those in coastal areas with seasonal populations, are able to fully participate.

. POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS, EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS



Ms SUSANA FERNÁNDEZ LÓPEZ

- EU R&D and innovation project officer, PHD student
- Applied Economics Department, University of Santiago de Compostela (Spain)

► How does your current research relate to European cohesion policy?

Research and innovation strategies for smart specialisation, which are at the core of the 2014-2020 cohesion policy framework, is the topic of my research.

However, the concept is quite new and still lacks a strong theoretical framework as well as empirical studies to provide insights and tools for their effective development at regional level. My research could therefore suggest new approaches to help the European Commission and regions define and carry out efficient smart specialisation strategies.

My current research aims to demonstrate that interregional cooperation is a key element in the design and development of smart specialisation strategies. In fact, regions with similar specialisation patterns should develop strategies together and build links with other more advanced regions in R&D.

► What are your future research plans?

One of the main pillars of smart specialisation is the entrepreneurial process, which seems more relevant for large, well-off regions that have strong regional innovation systems and governance structures where entrepreneurial process can arise easily. However, to what extent are they relevant for regions which have not fully developed these preconditions?

I intend to analyse what I call 'driving initiatives' created by public authorities and how they contribute to or could promote smart specialisation.

In addition, another result of my research would be to develop a methodology based on a range of quantitative and qualitative indicators and tools which will help regions to evaluate their smart specialisation strategies and identify their priorities.

Regions with similar specialisation patterns should develop strategies together and build links with other more advanced regions in R&D.

. POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS, EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS



MRS AGATA MALEŃCZYK

- Master's student
- Faculty of Economics, University of Gdańsk (Poland)

► How does your current research relate to European cohesion policy?

I am currently working on my doctoral thesis entitled: 'Efficiency of the South Baltic Programme against the assumptions of the European Territorial Cooperation based on the analysis of the people-to-people relationship under Measure 2.4 - Local Community Initiatives'. The dissertation is a consequence of many years of my professional work, writing and calculating projects funded by the European Union. Its main objective is the analysis and evaluation of the South Baltic Programme as a tool for achieving the objectives of the European Territorial Cooperation Programme and to provide a model for Measure 2.4.

I have also written many applications for companies involved in the following programmes: European Territorial Cooperation, Human Capital Programme, Innovative Economy, Regional Programmes, South Baltic Programme, Lithuania-Poland-Russia, and Culture.

► What are your future research plans?

I will continue working on my thesis, with the aim to demonstrate that the grass root initiatives of community are crucial to the development of territorial cooperation, and thus for the realisation of the strategic objectives of the European Territorial Cooperation Programme, and the South Baltic Programme in particular. Measure 2.4 – Local Community Initiatives requires careful attention to the development of people-to-people cooperation.

To conduct this research, I will use tools such as interviews, meetings with project coordinators, reports and statistic analyses.

! I will continue working on my thesis, with the aim to demonstrate that the grass root initiatives of community are crucial to the development of territorial cooperation. !

. POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS, EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS



DR NAJA MAROT

- Researcher
- Urban Planning Institute of the Republic of Slovenia (Slovenia)

► How does your current research relate to European cohesion policy?

Throughout my PhD and recently, I have been working in various research fields connected to EU cohesion. The major area is (territorial) impact assessment, a tool primarily developed by the ESPON programme to evaluate the impacts of EU, national and regional policies towards achieving territorial cohesion goals. I cooperated in developing an approach to measure territorial impacts of national energy policy in achieving EU goals.

Furthermore, I have cooperated on transnational projects, including ReSource (Central Europe Programme), addressing the question of regional development and renewal in the post-industrial regions, and DEMOCHANGE (Alpine Space Programme), which tackled demographic changes and their influence on regional and local planning in Alpine regions.

► What are your future research plans?

My future research will focus on progress in the approach to territorial impact assessment, especially on topics which are currently insufficiently covered, such as the selection of the territorial level on which to perform the assessment, the influence of the choice of experts on the assessment outcomes, and the potential for integration of the approach into the policy-making process at national and regional level.

Further to that, I am interested in the concept of territorial potential where regional sources that have not yet been utilised are re-evaluated from a new perspective.

! I have cooperated on transnational projects, including ReSource (Central Europe Programme), addressing the question of regional development and renewal in the post-industrial regions. !

. POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS, EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS



MR WANDER MEULEMANS

- Lecturer
- Human Geography and Planning, Utrecht University (The Netherlands)

► How does your current research relate to European cohesion policy?

My research interests are focussed on European cohesion policy, multi-level governance, citizen participation and territorial identity. Predominantly I am interested in the role of civil society in European regional issues: first because it is said that the EU fails to connect to its citizens and secondly because social movements are usually rooted in cities and regions.

Both themes are interesting to study from a geographical perspective. The EU draws up regional policy to improve the economic and social well-being of regions. Regions can be seen as bridges that bring the people of Europe closer to the EU institutions. Therefore my research questions whether cohesion policy is supported by those it is essentially made for, the citizens of the EU.

► What are your future research plans?

I plan to write an academic paper about the aforementioned topic and hope to continue my research in the fields of regional policy, multi-level governance and the involvement of civil society.

I have identified two main pillars which are applicable to my future research: the first concerns layered regional identities which can be 'thick' (rooted in regional culture) or 'thin' (artificially created). The second pillar considers that civil society in old Member States is more active than those in the new Member States (after the 2004 enlargement). Therefore further research on how participative regional planning can contribute to the evolution of civil society in new Member States seems essential.

! My research questions whether cohesion policy is supported by those it is essentially made for, the citizens of the EU. !

. POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS, EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS



DR TIAN MIAO

- Research Fellow
- Centre for Housing Research, Department of Geography and Sustainable Development, University of St Andrews (United Kingdom)

► **How does your current research relate to European cohesion policy?**

My current research is on developing success indicators for Scotland's cities. This work provides insights for tracking and evaluating European cohesion policy, by identifying measures of city outcomes that go beyond GDP as the dominant measure of the well-being. Four features of this research relate to European cohesion policy:

- Economic growth (GDP) is not the sole-criterion of success but is weighted together with environmental sustainability and social well-being outcomes.
- Clear definitions and classifications of input, output and outcome indicators will be outlined.
- Flexibility in model building to reflect the divergences between cities and their dynamics.
- Incorporating the effect of collaboration in evaluating an individual city's success.

► **What are your future research plans?**

The Scottish Cities Alliance 'Success Indicator Framework' is being developed with the seven partner cities. The project has reviewed

international literature on city success measures so far. Future work plans involve:

- Grouping the cities by their demographic, economic, social backgrounds and policy priorities.
- Expanding the monitoring system to a suitable set of comparable cities within UK.
- We aim to work collaboratively within the EU 'Beyond GDP' initiative and extend the Cities' Success Indicator Framework to other EU member regions. This will involve defining and selecting comparable indicators across member states/regions that track inputs, outputs and outcomes.

This will make a contribution to EU's forthcoming cohesion policy architecture for 2014-2020 and its NUTS classification system and Urban Audits in general.

! Economic growth (GDP) is not the sole-criterion of success but is weighted together with environmental sustainability and social well-being outcomes. !

**. POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS,
EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS****MR HRVOJE MIROŠEVIĆ**

- Research assistant
- Department for Regional Economic, Sustainability and Governance, The Institute of Economics, Zagreb (Croatia)

► **How does your current research relate to European cohesion policy?**

The main research objective of my doctoral thesis is concerned with regional income inequality in Croatia, with the aim to detect the actors and determinants in the period from 1998 to 2012.

Specifically my research is based on microeconomic data on personal income distribution across NUTS II and NUTS III regions in Croatia. The main purpose of my research is to help policy makers improve policy measures and create better conditions for reducing regional disparities in Europe. I see my research as a valuable addition to the literature concerned with regional development and the convergence process.

► **What are your future research plans?**

My future research plans lie within the field of regional economics with a focus on Southeast Europe. My intention is to continue with quantitative analyses and to focus my research activities on regional microeconomic analyses in order to study factors and determinants of regional disparities in living standards.

Since my doctoral research is confined within the national borders of Croatia, in the future I would like to expand the scope of my research to the greater Southeastern European area. As attention within regional economic research studies has been more focussed on macroeconomic indicators, my research interests lie the further exploration of regional disparities based on microeconomic data.

! I see my research as a valuable addition to the literature concerned with regional development and the convergence process. !

. POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS, EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS



DR ANDREI MITREA

- Academic Teaching Assistant
- Department for Urban Planning and Territorial Development, 'Ion Mincu' University of Architecture and Urban Planning (UAUIM) (Romania)

► How does your current research relate to European cohesion policy?

I am currently involved in three spatial planning projects commissioned by the Romanian Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration (MRDPA): a background study for an update of the settlement network section within the National Spatial Plan; a background study for structuring the territorial development axis Ploiești-Bucharest-Giurgiu; and a background study for the urban system Galați-Brăila.

All three projects continue the work on territorial cohesion started during my doctoral studies. My research, 'Regional Innovation Systems at the Urban-Rural Fringe in Romania', tested the adequacy of regional innovation systems (RIS) as a spatial planning tool for regional development strategies.

This research ultimately resulted in a viable platform for delivering the Commission's proposed Programme for Social Change and Innovation (PSCI).

► What are your future research plans?

I am also planning a new project, aimed at developing strategic spatial planning instruments and development models for Romania's Territorial Development Strategy (TDS). Considerable importance is given to territorial cohesion, thus the research project will prove extremely valuable for reconsidering urban-rural partnerships and inter-communality.

In parallel, I am preparing new materials for a textbook on inter-communality. The text has two main aims: first, to analyse the specifics of the Romanian context, and second, to provide a platform for framing spatial planning issues within the Balkan macro-region and the wider European context. Furthermore, it will assess whether soft spatial planning is viable within Romanian and South-Eastern European planning practices.

! I am also planning a new project, aimed at developing strategic spatial planning instruments and development models for Romania's Territorial Development Strategy (TDS). !

. POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS, EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS



Ms VALENTINA MONTALTO

- Researcher
- KEA Department of Research and Studies, KEA European Affairs (Belgium)

► **How does your current research relate to European cohesion policy?**

My current research covers the opportunities and challenges related to the use of Structural Funds in the field of culture and the creative industries, including through European Territorial Cooperation projects. Last year, I was the main researcher of the 'Study on the Use of Structural Funds for Cultural Projects' (July 2012), which was carried out by KEA on behalf of the European Parliament.

The study looked into the use of Structural Funds for culture in the period 2007-2013 and came with a number of policy recommendations, at regional, national and European levels, aimed at facilitating the access and use of Structural Funds for culture under the proposed cohesion policy 2014-2020. The Study was much appreciated across Europe, both by policy makers and academics.

► **What are your future research plans?**

In the next few years, I would like to focus my research on Structural Funds, impact assessment and evaluation of cultural actions supported by Structural Funds. Given the peculiarity of cultural investment, I would like to study and assess both quantitative and qualitative impacts.

In order to be able to do this, I would build on another major project I am currently carrying out, namely a long-term impact assessment of Mons – European Capital of Culture 2015.

Furthermore, in order to improve my statistical knowledge, parallel to my job at KEA I am undertaking a further master in Quantitative Analysis for Social Sciences at the Department of Statistics at KU Leuven.

! Last year, I was the main researcher of the 'Study on the Use of Structural Funds for Cultural Projects' (July 2012), which was carried out by KEA on behalf of the European Parliament. !

. POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS, EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS



Ms JULIA NAGY

- PhD student
- Faculty of Geography, Babes-Bolyai University (Romania)

► How does your current research relate to European cohesion policy?

Cities are the growth engines of the European economy, accounting for a large share of GDP, acting as catalysts in innovation and creativity to deliver stable and sustainable growth. On the other hand, they are the source of major problems like unemployment and their success in driving growth depends on their urban policies and local governance.

Therefore, one of the main questions is how to reach cohesion policy objectives and through that, how to develop our territories in a sustainable way.

My thesis explores the definition of sustainable development within the context of economical, social and environmental integration in the metropolitan area of Cluj-Napoca. It investigates the range of instruments and tools – strategic, procedural or organisational – used for integrating sustainability in the development of the metropolitan area.

► What are your future research plans?

First, I will explore the principles of sustainable development and its contribution to cohesion policy. Then I will identify the instruments used in the 2007-2013 period on achieving and fostering sustainability through investigating the attitude of local governments regarding this issue.

In the third stage, I will determine how institutions at different levels perceive, influence and evaluate the implementation of sustainability programmes and satisfy the objectives of cohesion policy.

Finally I will evaluate the findings and suggest a new theoretical model to establish the influence of several instruments and estimate their effectiveness at achieving sustainable urban development.

! Cities are the growth engines of the European economy, accounting for a large share of GDP, acting as catalysts in innovation and creativity to deliver stable and sustainable growth. !

**. POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS,
EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS****MR JUAN CAMILO ECHAVARRÍA OCHOA**

- PhD candidate
- The Centre of Land Policy and Valuations (CPSV),
Technical University of Catalonia (UPC) (Spain)

► **How does your current research relate to European cohesion policy?**

What is best for a metropolitan region? This is the question my research aims to address. Analytical models to assess the efficiency of metropolitan configurations have been developed, involving variables such as land use, the distribution of employment, the income of the population, transport accessibility, the quality of the environment, etc.

The main objective of my study is to introduce a measure of the internal diversity of these variables and measure the effect it has on explaining a metropolitan model.

In the case of Barcelona and its 164 municipalities, my study shows that diversity of employment, diversity of economic activity including income levels and diversity of land use are highly positive factors and have a direct influence on the metropolitan setting.

► **What are your future research plans?**

Quantifying the results of the metropolitan configurations in terms of diversity and its impact on development strategies and investment policies is a key factor in European cohesion policy and also in my future work.

The analysis of metropolitan regions can clearly be expanded to different contexts and regions, albeit difficult as each area has its own characteristics and information sources. Saying this, my future research will be based on the principle that a methodological approach has to be explored in order to assess different places and other European metropolitan contexts.

European Strategies may be the same but specific analysis is still needed: local models for local goals. This is the next step forward.

! European Strategies may be the same but specific analysis is still needed: local models for local goals. !

. POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS, EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS



Ms LISE SMED OLSEN

- Research Fellow, PhD student
- Nordregio (Sweden), Department of Culture and Global Studies, Aalborg University (Denmark)

► **How does your current research relate to European cohesion policy?**

The overall focus of my research is on issues of regional development and innovation policy in the Nordic countries, and involves themes such as the strategies of higher education institutions in regional development, as well as green growth. Case studies in Denmark, Sweden and Finland indicate that EU Structural Funds are considered highly important by the regional stakeholders in this regard, and are increasingly being used in a strategic way.

I was also recently involved in a study for the European Commission's Regional Policy Directorate-General on the relevance and effectiveness of European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and Cohesion Fund support to regions with specific geographic features, for which I carried out a case study in Denmark.

► **What are your future research plans?**

Within the next three years, I will be completing my PhD dissertation with the working title 'New approaches in regional policy to promote innovation in tourism'. Currently, I am working on a paper dealing with triple helix initiatives in the tourism industry in Norway and Denmark. I will also produce case study papers on cross-border innovation policy between Norwegian and Swedish regions, and green growth, including sustainable tourism.

I wish to continue my research in regional development and innovation policy, and in the institutional collaboration processes that facilitate this. I would like to become involved in European research projects, and plan to become further involved in EU Structural Fund evaluations.

! Currently, I am working on a paper dealing with triple helix initiatives in the tourism industry in Norway and Denmark. !

. POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS, EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS



Ms ÁGNES OROSZ

- Junior research fellow
- Institute of World Economics, Centre for Economic and Regional Studies, Hungarian Academy of Sciences (Hungary)

► How does your current research relate to European cohesion policy?

In my PhD dissertation I focus on the evolution of regional income inequalities in some European countries (case studies are Spain, Germany and Hungary). From examining income inequalities within the country, I've found that EU cohesion policy and governmental efforts (fiscal policy tools) are both used in order to foster convergence.

Interesting elements of the research are those ways in which countries aim to decrease the inequalities between regions and also that inequalities between similar countries can be contradictory. A deeper understanding of the effects and the analysis of the impacts of EU cohesion policy would be fruitful to my PhD research.

► What are your future research plans?

As a TEPSA member, my institute is planning to take part in the research project 'Impact of the economic crisis on the economic, social and territorial cohesion of the European Union' in which I would be responsible for a case study. The Institute of World Economics publishes its Monitoring Report on the performance of EU10 countries annually. Its 2013 edition will focus on the results of cohesion policy, and I will prepare the chapters on Romania and Bulgaria.

From examining income inequalities within the country, I've found that EU cohesion policy and governmental efforts (fiscal policy tools) are both used in order to foster convergence.

. POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS, EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS



DR BASAK DEMIRES OZKUL

- Lecturer
- Urban and Regional Planning, Istanbul Technical University (Turkey)

► How does your current research relate to European cohesion policy?

I worked on regional cohesion as part of my dissertation aiming to understand the changes within the settlement structure of England and Wales between 1981 and 2001. The research included new techniques in local and regional analysis such as cluster analysis, visualisation, and definition of Travel to Work Areas to understand the effect of socio-economic change on spatial structure.

The techniques used and the results obtained have garnered awards at international conferences. I am now furthering these studies to include data released for the 2011 UK census.

As a candidate country, it is important for Turkey to have a more comprehensive understanding of its regions and their socio-economic structure. In my new position at Istanbul Technical University I am interested in applying the techniques from my dissertation to Turkey to better understand the interaction between socio-economic factors and spatial structure at the regional level.

► What are your future research plans?

Turkey is actively working on the topic of regional convergence, however there are challenges, including large economic disparity between regions; the poorest region is 5 times poorer than the richest region.

My future research will concentrate on understanding the impacts of socio-economic change on local and regional spatial structure and the establishment of Travel to Work Areas across Turkey.

Furthermore I would like to look at ways how national and local investments in transportation can be used to connect peripheral areas to economic cores.

As a candidate country, it is important for Turkey to have a more comprehensive understanding of its regions and their socio-economic structure.

. POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS, EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS



DR PEDRO MIGUEL DE JESUS PALMA

- PhD student
- Institute of Geography and Spatial Planning, University of Lisbon (Portugal)

► How does your current research relate to European cohesion policy?

I am part of the research team responsible for the ESPON Project: SeGI – Indicators and Perspectives for Services of General Interest in Territorial Cohesion and Development. Services of general interest are seen by the European Commission as essential to ensuring social and territorial cohesion across Europe. The efficiency and quality of these services are key factors for both European competitiveness and greater cohesion, to the extent that they can attract investment to less-favoured regions.

I am also working on my PhD thesis (proposed theme: Contribution of Services of general interest to territorial cohesion and equity). My work plan emerges from the aim of the European Union to promote balanced development by reducing disparities between regions.

► What are your future research plans?

I will mainly be focussing on my PhD research and I intend to develop a methodology to evaluate the contribution of Services of general interest to equity and territorial cohesion. The starting point will be at European level (how cohesion policy affects Member States) before moving to a more advanced analysis of Portugal.

This research could be important in understanding the success of European policies which aim to promote balanced competitiveness and sustainable development and avoid territorial imbalance.

Services of general interest are seen by the European Commission as essential to ensuring social and territorial cohesion across Europe.!

. POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS, EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS



DR ANGELA PARENTI

- Postdoctoral fellow
- Department of Economics and Management, University of Pisa (Italy)

► How does your current research relate to European cohesion policy?

In my PhD thesis I have aimed to answer the following questions: What policies were adopted by the EU to achieve its goals of convergence and competitiveness of European regions? Have these policies been effective?

I have built databases of Structural and Cohesion Funds for the first three programming periods, paying particular attention to reallocation across regions when information was only available at multi-regional or country level.

In the second part of my research I analysed the impact of EU regional policy on the growth of European regions over the period 1980-2002. Moreover, in order to capture the main features of the funds, i.e. their size and composition, I also proposed a simple growth model, which has subsequently been utilised as a guide to empirical analysis.

► What are your future research plans?

My PhD research could be extended in many respects: First the impact of funds could be evaluated by conditioning of the output composition of regions and taking into account the spatial distribution of economic activities in the EU. Conditioning, along with a control for the institutional quality at regional level, could provide additional information for a more efficient allocation of funds.

Secondly, the hypothesis of whether regional policy has crowded out or complemented investment could be examined. This information is crucial to evaluating the long-term impact of Structural and Cohesion Funds on regions' productivities.

What policies were adopted by the EU to achieve its goals of convergence and competitiveness of European regions? Have these policies been effective?

. POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS, EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS



DR MARTIN PĚLUHA

- Early career researcher and lecturer
- Department of Regional studies,
University of Economics in Prague (Czech Republic)

► How does your current research relate to European cohesion policy?

The basis of my research focuses on the elaboration of a complex methodological framework for assessing aspects of territorial cohesion in the EU's rural development policy. The aim of the research is to verify this link to territorial cohesion (defined as a specific horizontal objective of the EU's Common Agricultural Policy for rural development) in the Czech Republic.

Policy making needs to reflect and analyse this relation but there is no clear methodology for doing so. Therefore with the current programming period coming to an end, it is necessary to find a way to assess the impact of rural development policy and its relation to territorial cohesion goals.

► What are your future research plans?

My future research plans are aimed mainly at increasing my participation in international research projects, increasing my publication activities and the defence of my habilitation thesis.

I hope to undertake study visits to the University of Newcastle in the United Kingdom to collaborate on research assessing territorial cohesion policy. Attention will be given to sustainable development and economic growth in order to rethink the existing model of socio-economic development so that it also takes account of the need to reduce environmental degradation and preserve natural resources.

! It is necessary to find a way to assess the impact of rural development policy and its relation to territorial cohesion goals. !

. POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS, EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS



DR HUGO PINTO

- Post-doctoral researcher and invited professor
- Centre for Social Studies, University of Coimbra and Faculty of Economics, University of Algarve (Portugal)

► How does your current research relate to European cohesion policy?

I am particularly interested in researching innovation systems, regional resilience, public policy and the role of universities. As part of my PhD I analysed European national profiles of innovation systems and the institutional change in university-industry relations in Portugal.

For my PhD research I was a finalist of the Academic Tech Transfer and Commercialisation Graduate Student Prize Literature Review of the Association of University Technology Managers and also a Bartolomeu Award winner of the Portuguese Association for Regional Development.

I have also worked as a project manager on projects connected with European cohesion; recently I was involved in DG Regional Policy's 'Evaluation of the main achievements of cohesion policy programmes and projects over the longer term in 15 selected regions (from 1989-1993 programming period to the present)'.

Currently I am developing a post-doctoral project on 'Resilience of innovation systems in the presence of economic turbulence'.

► What are your future research plans?

As part of my post-doctoral project, I will analyse competitiveness and capacity to respond to challenges and external shocks from the recent economic turbulence in selected European regions, in particular in Portugal and Spain.

As a user of quantitative methods (econometrics) and other qualitative traditions (Actor-Network Theory), I am also interested in working on interconnected topics such as regional innovation and research and innovation strategies for smart specialisation.

As part of my post-doctoral project, I will analyse competitiveness and capacity to respond to challenges and external shocks from the recent economic turbulence in selected European regions.!

. POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS, EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS



DR PASQUALE PIZZIMENTI

- Marie Curie early stage researcher
- Department of Urban and Architectural Heritage (PAU),
Mediterranea University of Reggio Calabria (Italy)

► How does your current research relate to European cohesion policy?

Currently, I am involved in the Commercial Local Urban Districts (CLUDs) Project within the 7th Framework Programme – Marie Curie International Research Staff Exchange Scheme (IRSES).

CLUDs is a research project designed to explore new approaches in implementing urban regeneration policies, in particular by testing an innovative model aimed at enhancing the attractiveness of deprived urban areas by focusing on public-private partnerships and urban-rural linkages.

CLUDs has already introduced, through its research network, an international doctorate in Urban Regeneration and Economic Development. It is based on greater integration between research and development, working towards more sustainable connections between current social needs, cities' competitiveness and economic growth.

► What are your future research plans?

The new challenge for cities is to combine competitiveness with social and environmental needs. In this sense it would be useful to think of new and suitable smart specialisation strategies for cities that meet the objectives of both the Europe 2020 and the Horizon 2020 strategies, and that aim to 'regenerate' cities socially, economically and environmentally. My future research plans are closely linked these to these strategies.

The link between different stakeholders both public and private (especially universities) could help to disseminate the results from such research into improving the urban environment. This would be especially beneficial for transfer of best practices in those regions that have still to catch up (environmentally, socially, and economically) with the other more developed European regions.

! The new challenge for cities is to combine competitiveness with social and environmental needs. !

. POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS, EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS



Ms GINTARE POCIUTE

- PhD student
- Human Geography Department,
Lithuanian Social Research Centre (Lithuania)

► **How does your current research relate to European cohesion policy?**

As part of my PhD, I am working on the topic of centre-periphery relations and the link with European cohesion policy. Lithuania is experiencing huge depopulation and problems of social and economic inequality; therefore I am focussing on the disadvantaged, peripheral regions and seeking solutions.

The EU is putting emphasis on helping regions to grow through different funds, programmes and actions. Therefore, one of my tasks is to make recommendations for these actions, supported by the Lithuanian government and the EU, which would help to revive these regions.

► **What are your future research plans?**

I will finish my PhD studies in the coming year and wish to continue working in the science field. I would like to focus more on regional studies and will continue to follow changes in the demographic and socioeconomic situation in Lithuanian regions and compare them to the situation in the EU or neighbouring non-EU countries.

Furthermore, I will continue to work on two projects with the Lithuanian Social Research Centre: 'Sparsely populated areas in Lithuania' and 'Regional peculiarities of Lithuanian rural settlements'. I also hope to further my interest in social inequality in city regions and I am planning to continue my research in this area.

‘The EU is putting emphasis on helping regions to grow through different funds, programmes and actions.’

. POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS, EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS



MR NICOLA PONTAROLLO

- PhD student
- Department of Economics, University of Verona (Italy)

► How does your current research relate to European cohesion policy?

My current research evaluates the impact of European cohesion policy on growth in regional labour productivity to determine which conditions affect the effectiveness of cohesion policy. It is well known that labour productivity growth is the key factor in ensuring sustainable long-term economic growth, so it is essential that policy makers are aware of the effects cohesion policy can have on this.

Much research on this topic only involves Gross Domestic Product, whereas my study will also include an indicator of regional institutional quality to determine its effect on cohesion policy and its impact on regional labour productivity growth.

► What are your future research plans?

My future research plans concern two fields: first, the empirical test on the existence of regional economic convergence within countries, focussing on Spain and Italy. The main goal of the analysis is to understand the determinants of the economic performance of the regions and/or provinces in the context of the country as a whole.

Secondly I aim to evaluate the effects of Structural Funds on regional structural change. The identification of the determinants of labour productivity growth and its components allows an understanding of the roles of the various factors included in the analysis. This information is relevant in order to plan future policies in light of the results and the objectives to reach.

It is well known that labour productivity growth is the key factor in ensuring sustainable long-term economic growth, so it is essential that policy makers are aware of the effects cohesion policy can have on this.

. POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS, EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS



DR LEE PUGALIS

- Senior Lecturer in Urban Theory & Practice
- Architecture and the Built Environment, Northumbria University (United Kingdom)

► How does your current research relate to European cohesion policy?

My research engages with theoretical, policy and practical issues relating to state rescaling, institutional evolution and urban reterritorialisation. It draws on insights from my local, regional, national and European policymaking experience – including multi-level integration of development funds, place-based development strategies and the effective spatial targeting of EU Structural Funds. Thus, connections with European cohesion policy are both direct and indirect.

I have published research on changing institutional architecture, novel multi-scalar development strategies and territorial interventions that are concerned with European cohesion policy both pre and post 2013. This research has helped to influence UK government policy relating to the management of European Regional Development Funds.

► What are your future research plans?

Influenced by the Great Recession of the 21st Century and the ensuing Euro Crisis, I am investigating different state and non-state urban strategies across the EU that remain in the grips of a neoliberal toolkit of fiscal austerity. The interim findings identify the burgeoning number of 'fleet of foot' partnerships, which are being adopted across Europe as cost-effective instruments for crisis management.

Examining the orientation and effectiveness of the Europe 2020 'growth strategy' is a central component of my future research plans. I intend to extend my research into the rise of Local Enterprise Partnerships in England to examine their developing role in overseeing the management of EU Structural Funds 2014-2020 and devising 'territorial pacts'.

! Influenced by the Great Recession of the 21st Century and the ensuing Euro Crisis, I am investigating different state and non-state urban strategies across the EU that remain in the grips of a neoliberal toolkit of fiscal austerity. !

. POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS, EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS



MR IBRAHIM OLADAYO RAHAMON

- PhD student
- Urban and Regional Planning, University of Lagos (Nigeria)

► How does your current research relate to European cohesion policy?

'Cohesion policy is the market's 'visible hand', which aims at balanced and sustainable development while fostering economic integration throughout the EU as a whole', (Danuta Hubner, 2008).

I apply this understanding of European cohesion policy to my research in Nigeria, a vast country with huge regional disparities and widening gaps in development between rural and urban areas. These differences in economic development and the well-being of the people in different regions and spatial units are partly responsible for the state of Nigerian development. Nigeria has concentrated too much on economic growth to the detriment of people's welfare and place-based development.

Therefore my research intends to make contributions to correcting the identified problems by emphasising strong rural-urban integration and bottom-up development that is participatory and territorial.

► What are your future research plans?

The central idea of my PhD thesis is development from below (bottom-up) based on the resources (human, environmental, natural and man-made) of the local area. Upon successful completion of this research I will continue to argue for a change in attitudes to rural and regional development in developing countries.

With like-minded colleagues, the mindset and orientation of development in Nigeria, Africa and other developing countries can be positively redirected for the good of our people.

! Nigeria has concentrated too much on economic growth to the detriment of people's welfare and place-based development. !

. POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS, EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS



Ms SATU RINKINEN

- PhD student
- Lahti School of Innovation, Lappeenranta University of Technology (Finland)

► How does your current research relate to European cohesion policy?

My current research examines the role and future of innovation policies in a regional context. My research deals with the problem of how to build effective regional innovation policies in order to foster regions' economic growth, to create jobs and to enhance regions' competitiveness in a highly globalised environment.

Regional innovation strategies often form the basis for these policies. As a part of its cohesion and innovation policies and the Europe 2020 strategy, the European Commission is promoting the creation of research and innovation strategies for smart specialisation for each region within the Member States.

My latest research discusses this smart specialisation logic in the context of Finnish innovation policy. Smart specialisation is a new and interesting concept and its applications and effects need to be better examined in such regional contexts.

► What are your future research plans?

I am working on my doctoral dissertation on regional innovation policies and their future in the Finnish context. I also intend to continue working with regional smart specialisation strategy issues.

I aim to examine the advantages that smart specialisation might have for regional development and what possibilities it might have in different regions. Therefore my next research plan is to compare the smart specialisation strategy building processes in one region in Finland with another in Spain.

My research results will provide new insights for policy makers at a practical level and will further the academic discussion on regional innovation policy.

Smart specialisation is a new and interesting concept and its applications and effects need to be better examined in regional contexts.

. POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS, EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS



Ms PETRA RUS

- EU project coordinator, research assistant
- Anton Melik Geographical Institute, Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts (Slovenia)

► How does your current research relate to European cohesion policy?

My current research is connected to the Alpine Space territorial cooperation project RURBANCE on inclusive governance strategies and tools for sustainable development. The view is that balanced development cannot be achieved with sectoral interventions, but only through an inclusive approach to now segmented territorial policies.

In line with my research work at the Anton Melik Geographical Institute, I'm also preparing a PhD thesis on the topic of conflicts between the functional and administrative boundaries as a barrier to effective management of areas. Management of areas is a complex form of governance, which involves a large number of stakeholders. Therefore there is a high need for effective management and development planning. Regional management is a specific form of management of areas, which emphasises collaboration and forms an important basis for regional cooperation of various actors. Cohesion and regional policy are pivotal when it comes to development planning.

► What are your future research plans?

My plans for the next few years are to achieve the goals of the RURBANCE project and to successfully defend my PhD thesis. I hope that in my research I will have the opportunity to work on issues closely linked to regional policy and to be involved in long-term, coordinated spatial and regional development. I hope we reach a degree of consensus on the fundamental issues and objectives of regional development at national, provincial and local levels, taking into account current European and global development.

‘Cohesion and regional policy are pivotal when it comes to development planning.’

. POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS, EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS



Ms ROMANA SALAGEANU

- PhD student
- Institute for Political Sciences, Otto-von-Guericke University, Magdeburg (Germany). Faculty for European Studies, Babes-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca (Romania)

► How does your current research relate to European cohesion policy?

My research topic is the regional participation within European multi-level governance. I am looking at how regional actors make use of available institutional and informal constellations in order to participate and influence the European decision-making and governance process.

My current research phase investigates the regional contribution of the German Land Saxony-Anhalt to the preparation of European cohesion policy for the funding periods 2014-2020, via the Bundesrat and the Committee of the Regions.

Another aspect of my research is related to the role of European cohesion policy as an incentive for the current regionalisation process in Romania.

► What are your future research plans?

My future research plans involve the analysis of the reassessed regionalisation process in Romania. Meeting with senior policymakers and academics would allow me to learn from their experience, understand their methods and apply them to my analysis of policymaking in other Member States.

Secondly I wish to contribute to the development of the scientific bottom-up discourse in European multi-level governance. At a time of crisis, regional participation has been reduced and the regional presence in Brussels has decreased. I am interested in the way the regional commitment to European affairs will develop.

‘At a time of crisis, regional participation has been reduced and the regional presence in Brussels has decreased.’

. POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS, EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS



MR GONÇALO ALVES DE SOUSA SANTINHA

- Lecturer
- Social, Political and Territorial Sciences, University of Aveiro (Portugal)

► How does your current research relate to European cohesion policy?

My research investigates how EU spatial guidelines can influence Member States' policy agendas. My PhD thesis considers how the principle of territorial cohesion can influence the efficiency and equity of the provision of Services of general interest, a main pillar of the European social model and a social and economic cohesion factor.

Besides from my academic research, I have participated in the designing of local and regional development strategies. Because stakeholders outside academia are not familiar with most EU guidelines concerning the next programming period, it has been a demanding but interesting experience to discuss how we can make the Europe 2020 strategy and cohesion policy agenda local.

► What are your future research plans?

One of my research goals is to increase my knowledge of how regional and local actors in Member States are grasping concepts such as territorial cohesion and to help them to articulate EU guidelines in local territorial contexts.

I would also like to continue my research on how the relationship between spatial development policies and health policies can be more cohesive; evidence from my research shows that this is an issue that tends to be ignored. Indeed, efforts must be undertaken to overcome the existing communication problems between actors and the lack of knowledge of this domain.

It has been a demanding but interesting experience to discuss how we can make the Europe 2020 strategy and cohesion policy agenda local.

. POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS, EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS



Ms KIRSI SILTANEN

- PhD Student
- School of Management, University of Tampere (Finland)

► **How does your current research relate to European cohesion policy?**

My Ph.D. research concerns innovation policy in small regions with scarce educational and research resources, but with an interest in promoting innovation in their region.

My research aims to explore the ways local policy makers use different methods and concepts from regional, national, European and global sources to build policy applicable to their local economic, cultural and social structures.

This process of adoption, adaptation and understanding happens through practical tasks, such as strategy making, writing funding applications, planning projects and marketing innovation policy to local politicians, enterprises or other local interest groups. Although difficult to distinguish from everyday practices, it plays an important part in understanding how development policies work at regional level.

The targets of my research are small Finnish rural or urban regions, most of them utilising EU cohesion policy instruments. From the view of EU cohesion policy, my research offers a challenge: policy

programmes aren't necessarily adopted, but evaluated, adapted and sometimes even rejected by the regional policy makers. How does this affect the goals of EU cohesion policy? How visible is this adoption process to EU level policy makers? How could possible obstacles be made visible to support effective policy development?

► **What are your future research plans?**

My future research plans concern policy learning and development among local, regional and national actors. Special attention is given to culture, i.e. the learned way of thinking and how it can be changed through leadership and group action.

My research aims to explore the ways local policy makers use different policy methods and concepts from regional, national, European and global sources to build policy applicable to their local economic, cultural and social structures.

**. POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS,
EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS****Ms LENKA SMÉKALOVÁ**

- Assistant teacher, PhD candidate
- Department of Regional Development, Public Sector Administration and Law, Tomas Bata University in Zlín (Czech Republic)

► **How does your current research relate to European cohesion policy?**

My dissertation thesis aims to reveal the spatial dispersion of allocation of Structural and Cohesion Funds in regions of the Czech Republic. Special focus will be paid to small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) as beneficiaries in the least economically advanced regions. These regions were declared to be of special interest when considering applications for funding.

The methodology of the thesis divides the EU co-funded projects into thematic categories and takes into account the differences between the spatial dispersion of applicants and the dispersion of locations for the projects.

Preliminary research focussed on the Czech Operational Programme for Enterprises and Innovation has already shown that enterprises from the least advanced regions often fail to receive funds when higher added value projects are involved.

► **What are your future research plans?**

I aim to further the previously mentioned work by focussing on other Czech Operational Programmes and later by applying similar methods of research in Poland and Slovenia in order to compare them with the more advanced EU economies in the region (e.g. Austria, Germany).

I intend to propose changes to the system of cohesion policy implementation in the Czech Republic, especially in terms of increasing the success of applications for EU funding from SMEs in the least economically advanced regions. The application methods used at present are not entirely successful and I hope to turn this around.

‘ I intend to propose changes to the system of cohesion policy implementation in the Czech Republic. ’

. POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS, EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS



MRS MONIKA SZCZĘSNA-MAREK

- PhD student
- Faculty of Economics, University of Gdańsk (Poland)

► How does your current research relate to European cohesion policy?

The title of my thesis is 'Financing of social and educational innovation development through structural funds in Polish self-government'. It focuses on capacity – applying for funds to finance innovation by local governments in Poland. It will be important to present conclusions on efficient spending of funds and impact on innovative development in the regions and cities.

EU Cohesion Policy is designed to boost innovation-driven growth in EU regions. 'Innovation Union' a flagship initiative of the Europe 2020 strategy is the key action of cohesion policy in the field of innovation. My interests include EU cohesion policy support for research and innovation development and its new dimensions and attitude towards supporting innovation in EU Member States.

► What are your future research plans?

To be part of a research community is indispensable if you are to be active in the different facets of research. In the near future my intention is to advance to graduate school or conduct practical research (e.g. monitoring of best practice in spending on innovation in Polish local government).

I will also participate in conferences and workshops, publish research results, make contact with colleagues sharing similar ideas. I am going to apply for a doctoral scholarship abroad, and will therefore be able to take part in a variety of events, exchange ideas and create networks that will benefit my scientific career.

! My interests include EU cohesion policy support for research and innovation development and its new dimensions and attitude towards supporting innovation in EU Member States. !

. POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS, EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS



Ms VALERIA SZITASIOVA

- PhD student
- Department of Public Administration and Regional Development, University of Economics in Bratislava (Slovakia)

► How does your current research relate to European cohesion policy?

One of the methodological approaches to evaluation of European cohesion policy is based on exploring its effectiveness. Our current research work focuses on the use of EU structural funds based on surveys conducted in municipalities in Slovakia.

The aim of the research is to identify the basic factors that influence effective use of EU funds, particularly in education support at the local government level through so called Regional Operational Programmes (ROP). We are analysing in particular measure 1.1 Education Infrastructure of this ROP. In total 660 projects were supported under this measure in local municipalities in Slovakia. We are examining successful applicants to analyse the use of structural funds in the practical implementation of this measure.

► What are your future research plans?

Research and science represent big challenges for me and I would like to deepen my knowledge of regional economics and policy. I wish to be an active member of the regional science community, not only in Slovakia but also in the international research network.

I would also like to expand my research through participating in the international scientific field which will be beneficial to my department at the University of Economics in Bratislava. I hope I will have the opportunity to contribute new knowledge and experience from international study and fellowships at other universities, membership of international research institutions and scientific communities from around the world.

Research and science represent big challenges for me and I would like to deepen my knowledge of regional economics and policy.

. POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS, EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS



MR FANOS TEKELAS

- Research Student
- Business School, University of Central Lancashire (Cyprus Campus) (Cyprus)

► How does your current research relate to European cohesion policy?

My research is based on the strategic responses of clothing retail small and medium size enterprises (SMEs) in the UK during the latest recession. European cohesion policy has helped many businesses to survive and grow and has also contributed to the creation of 800 000 SMEs.

Therefore, my current research relates to European cohesion policy in terms of growth in SMEs and their contribution in Europe. Based on European cohesion policy's 2020 objective for sustainable economic growth, SMEs have a tremendous effect on this objective. SMEs are the foundation of European economies; therefore their development and growth is crucial.

Furthermore, my current research explores whether strategic changes in SMEs brought development and growth during the last recession. For that reason, I believe the objective of European cohesion policy is similar to my research project's objectives.

► What are your future research plans?

I will continue with my research: 'Empirical research evaluating the strategic response of small and medium sized enterprises during the economic recession: an examination of the UK's clothing retail sector during the 2008 recession.'

One of the objectives of my research is to develop a conceptual framework of the strategies used during a recession and to adjust it to other countries' SMEs, especially in countries highly affected by the recession. I will also explore whether factors such as culture, government and others have an impact on the adjustment of the strategic response framework.

! SMEs are the foundation of European economies; therefore their development and growth is crucial. !

. POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS, EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS



Ms SIA VALENTINOVA TSOLOVA

- PhD Student and assistant
- Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics, Cathedra 'Software Technologies', Sofia University 'St. Kliment Ohridski' (Bulgaria)

► How does your current research relate to European cohesion policy?

European cohesion aims to make Europe more competitive and deliver growth and new jobs. These goals are supported by entrepreneurship in young people and new technology venture development in Europe.

The topic of my research is oriented towards start-up companies in the IT sphere and software development. My research theme is to improve young entrepreneurs' strategy skills by researching the specifics of strategy development in new technology ventures and provide a simplified way for young entrepreneurs to create a successful business strategy.

The importance of innovation and technology has an increasing importance in order for the EU to achieve greater competitiveness. Currently the majority of technology start-ups are generated by young people. For this reason I believe it is important to support them in order to reach European cohesion policy goals.

► What are your future research plans?

My research plans include finalising the strategy development models I am working on and developing software to support young people in creating technology strategies and launching new products.

What will improve the quality of my research work and planned software will be including a connection in the software with European cohesion policy goals and opportunities for collaboration between Europe's young entrepreneurs and project development. Including information about European regions' specific opportunities and advantages will also greatly support the research work I am implementing.

Currently the majority of technology start-ups are generated by young people. For this reason I believe it is important to support them in order to reach European cohesion policy goals.

. POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS, EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS



MR TIES VANTHILLO

- Research assistant, PhD student
- Department of Transport and Regional Economics, University of Antwerp (Belgium)

► How does your current research relate to European cohesion policy?

My current research investigates strategic policy documents and existing initiatives of various actors in Flanders (Belgium) concerning strategic regional economic issues. Thus, in this research, we want to quantify the initiatives taken by subregional actors according to their objectives, geographical scope, governance, budget and policy instruments. We try to distinguish between 'rhetoric' made by actors in publications and actual 'policy initiatives'.

This gives an overview of smart-specialisation-based policies at subregional level. Furthermore, the objective of this paper is to understand their relation to top-down regional and European policies, and especially the influence of European cohesion policy.

This research is linked to a PhD research project whose overall objective is to develop knowledge and understanding of bi-causal relationships that exist between the economic space and the policy space.

► What are your future research plans?

I will continue with my PhD research project, further analysing the emergence and evolution of policies and policy-making with regard to regional development. In addition I will work for the Flemish government on a research project called 'New industrial policy and spatial development', which targets the growth of internationally distinct knowledge-based clusters.

In the current debates on this new generation of industrial policies at European level, the concept of smart specialisation has gained significant political and analytical importance. We will analyse the potential of a more place-based industrial policy that takes into account the initiatives of subregional levels in the development of smart specialisation-based policies.

‘In the current debates on this new generation of industrial policies at European level, the concept of smart specialisation has gained significant political and analytical importance.’

. POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS, EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS



DR ADI WEIDENFELD

- Senior lecturer in tourism management
- Department of Economics & International Development, Middlesex University (United Kingdom)

► How does your current research relate to European cohesion policy?

My current research explores the role of tourism and mobility in facilitating knowledge transfer in the service sector in internal EU cross-border regions. The study addresses specific territorial challenges of smart, sustainable, and inclusive growth in the EU's northernmost regions.

It examines the potential contribution of interactions between regional actors in the service industries in particular. When these processes occur across borders, inter-cultural and cognitive differences pose additional constraints for learning and innovation.

My current study examines these elements by employing both quantitative and qualitative data analysis. In light of the lack of service innovation in the EU, the study focuses on service between Finland and Sweden, where actors collaborate but struggle to exchange ideas.

► What are your future research plans?

I intend to publish the findings of my Marie Curie postdoctoral research project for dissemination to policy makers and the wider audience in cross-border regions.

Moreover, I will submit an application to the Marie Curie Integration Grant, in order to build on my research conclusions and policy recommendations and provide further empirical findings to still unexplored aspects. This includes aspects such as the impact of different types of borders, different types of human mobility and on knowledge transfer between service SMEs, particularly those which participated EU cross-border initiatives.

In the long term, I intend to study the contribution of human mobility on the internationalisation of the service industries and knowledge transfer.

‘In light of the lack of service innovation in the EU, the study focuses on service between Finland and Sweden, where actors collaborate but struggle to exchange ideas.’

. POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS, EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS



Ms NAMI YAMASHITA

- PhD student
- Graduate School of Economics, Kobe University (Japan)

► How does your current research relate to European cohesion policy?

My research focuses on the historical development of fiscal policy in the EU, especially the Stability and Growth Pact and the macro-economic imbalances developing after the debt crisis in the EU.

I found that the policy of enforcing strict fiscal discipline on Member States goes against the fact that the EU has not implemented a fiscal transfer mechanism to absorb asymmetric shocks and secure economic stability across the region.

According to optimum currency area (OCA) theory, the fiscal transfer facility provided by a supranational budget could absorb the regional shock, but even after the crisis this option does not seem to be on the table. From the Japanese point of view, where quite a share of national budget is distributed to local governments this way, the current status of fiscal integration in the EU is worth analysing. In my view, European cohesion policy plays an important role in helping regional development and narrowing the gap between advanced and developing regions.

► What are your future research plans?

The next step in my research, following case studies on the policy mixes of fiscal transfer systems and state aid in selected regions, is to develop models to measure the effectiveness of cohesion policy.

The Community-led Local Development (CLLD) approach will also have implications for Japan as its long-term system of powerful central government is challenged by decentralisation in local governments across the nation. Therefore the effectiveness of this approach is also worth analysing.

! I found that the policy of enforcing strict fiscal discipline on Member States goes against the fact that the EU has not implemented a fiscal transfer mechanism to absorb asymmetric shocks. !

. POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS, EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS



DR ZSUZSANNA MÁRKUSNÉ ZSIBÓK

- Junior research fellow
- Transdanubian Research Department, Institute of Regional Studies, Centre for Economic and Regional Studies, Hungarian Academy of Sciences (Hungary)

► How does your current research relate to European cohesion policy?

In Hungary regional inequalities are high in several social and economic indicators. In my PhD, I examined a special aspect of territorial disparities: the interregional price and inflation differentials and their implications on wealth and economic policy.

After finishing my PhD, I progressed with my research in regional policy, spatial planning and cohesion policy evaluation. I aimed to find the effective policy mix (including national and EU initiatives) which leads to balanced territorial development in central and eastern European countries.

► What are your future research plans?

I participate in several research projects which focus on territorial development and spatial policy and I intend to research central and eastern European (CEE) territorial development, primarily from an economic point of view, with a focus on Hungary.

The dominance of the capital city regions is pronounced and causes significant challenges for territorial policies in the EU-10 countries. Therefore I would like to investigate the processes behind the monocentric spatial structure and the factors which would support more balanced spatial development.

I am interested in the methodologies of territorial analyses and the (primarily ex-post, quantitative) evaluation of spatial policies. In Hungary, similarly to other CEE countries, the majority of financial sources of development policy come from the EU budget, while national instruments are weak. Therefore I would like to discover, under these circumstances, what prospects there are for regions to catch up with more developed ones.

! In Hungary, similarly to other CEE countries, the majority of financial sources of development policy come from the EU budget, while national instruments are weak. !

. POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS, EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS



MR ANDRZEJ ŻUK

- PhD student
- Jean Monnet Chair of European Integration, Warsaw School of Economics (Poland)

► How does your current research relate to European cohesion policy?

My current research concentrates on border regions and European Territorial Cooperation programmes related to them. European cross-border cooperation programmes are stated as having clear added value to European cohesion policy. But, in fact, what does this mean? Does this statement have any theoretical foundations?

In my thesis I will check the importance of programmes for the elimination of the negative impacts of borders on the development of selected border regions in Poland. First, I will concentrate on theory of borders and border regions. Secondly, the programming of cross-border cooperation will be analysed to check if elimination of the negative effects of borders is taken into account in programming. Thirdly, a notion of cross-border effects will be defined and a hypothesis will be made. Finally, the importance of the programmes for cross-border cooperation will be shown, as new factors for cooperation created by the programmes will be identified.

► What are your future research plans?

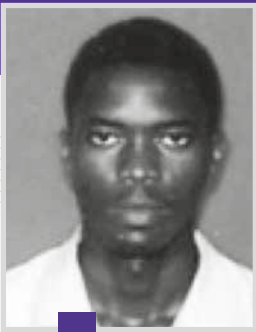
My future research will be more closely connected with territorial cohesion. It is important to define this term to better understand the process of European integration. It is essential to connect it with a theoretical base, to provide New Economic Geography (NEG) theory.

Research based on NEG models is currently in place to identify, for example, integration effects in border regions. This theoretical progress poses important questions concerning the effects of European integration and cohesion aspects of EU economic development.

European cross-border cooperation programmes are stated as having clear added value to European cohesion policy. But, in fact, what does this mean? Does this statement have any theoretical foundations?



**. POSTER COMPETITION
FINALISTS**



MR DIGUN-AWETO OGHENETEJIRI

- PhD student
- Department of Wildlife and Ecotourism, University of Ibadan (Nigeria)

Key publications

- 2008) Use of Aquaculture Technologies in Osun State Nigeria, African Journal of Livestock Extension

► **A forced marriage between conservation and host communities in Okomu national park (ONP), Edo State. Nigeria.**

Okomu National Park (ONP) is the smallest of Nigeria's seven national parks, covering a total area of 181 km² and home to the endangered white-throated monkey. ONP is a forest block within the 1082 km² Okomu Forest Reserve in Ovia South-West Local Government Area of Edo state in Nigeria. It holds a small fragment of the rich forest that once covered the region, and is the last habitat for some endangered species (Ajayi, 2010). The major problem facing flora and fauna conservation is the increasing rate of habitat loss or modification due to human activities (Ayodele, 2008).

This study investigates the conflict of interests between the objectives of ONP and that of the host communities which claim that the natural resources belong to them. For this study, data on activities such as poaching, logging and collection of non-timber forest

products was collected from ONP records. The results showed that the socio-economic status of the locals affect their attitudes and perceptions towards conservation.

There is the need to conserve the natural resources at ONP which is home to a wide range of flora and fauna, some of which are endemic. The silver bullet approach to effective conservation is the bottom-up model for the management of natural resources, where the communities gain some form of economic advantage for preserving forests and wildlife. This will only be effective with the right policies in place under good governance.



MR THOMAS DUDLEY

- PhD student
- Applied Research Centre in Sustainable Regeneration (SURGE), Coventry University (United Kingdom)

► **Policy Implications of Plant Closure for the redundant workforce within economic recession: examining the 2009 LDV closure in the West Midlands, United Kingdom.**

This paper presents the implications of plant closure upon the redundant workforce in an economic recession. The financial crisis of 2008 and the preceding recession present new parameters for the redundant workers to operate in and adjust to in the labour market and new challenges for government policy. This research will look into the impact of the closure of LDV on the Birmingham economy and its ex-workforce.

The aim of this research is to gain further understanding of the impacts of such closures and policy responses behind them. Furthermore it aims to highlight previous labour policy on tackling redundancy and then, using the geographical political economy framework (GPE), explore how labour policy could be altered to better help those made redundant in the changing economic circumstances.

Outcomes of the Research

First to achieve a greater understanding as to why the LDV factory closed, and if there were other avenues to prevent closure; and questioning the capability of the LDV task force that was responsible for the relocation of ex-workers. Secondly to integrate the political economies of closure, noting how they differ during different economic circumstances. Thirdly to determine if the lack of capital in the recession reduced the survivability of LDV; and did this reduce the employability of the ex-workers and the choices and manoeuvrability of ex-worker reemployment potential? Finally to create an employment policy that would have better outcomes for unemployed workers.

• POSTER COMPETITION FINALISTS



DR MARTIJN SMIT

- Researcher
- Department of Spatial Economics, Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam (The Netherlands)

Key publications

- Smit, M.J. (2012), "Stocking Up: the Influence of Past Innovativity in a Region", *European Planning Studies*, online 2012, paper version

forthcoming 2013 [earlier version published in I. Bernhard (ed.), *The Geography of Innovation and Entrepreneurship*, Trollhättan: University West, pp. 951-967]

- Smit, M.J. (2010), *Agglomeration and Innovation: Evidence from Dutch Microdata*, PhD dissertation, Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam

► Abstract for Agglomeration literature: a meta-analysis & cluster policy: recommendations.

Policy makers often assume that clustering or agglomeration has a positive impact on innovation and productivity among firms. However, the scientific literature shows a rather mixed picture. This literature builds mainly on the work of Glaeser et al. (1992). We evaluate the statistical robustness of a large collection of evidence on these externalities, and in these we find relatively robust support for competition and diversity externalities, but more ambiguous evidence regarding specialisation. We explored the variation in estimation results by a meta-regression on study characteristics. The significance of various study characteristics highlights the heterogeneity of the empirical research in this field. The level of regional aggregation also matters for the strength with which the agglomeration forces are operational. Studies using data from less densely populated areas find specialisation to be a more important factor than other studies.

We reflect on what this implies for sound cluster policies. Using evidence from a number of case studies, which look at the importance of agglomeration effects for productivity (wages), innovation and R&D spillovers, we show that the actual benefits can be very low. Since the patterns studied are almost exclusively market-driven and have developed over a long time, we can presume they are in many cases optimal. However, policy makers face the additional challenge of having imperfect information for the decision on which firms, sectors and regions to support. Therefore, policies to actively encourage and support clusters should be cautious. Meta-analyses can help to show under which circumstances agglomeration forces might have positive influences, and only there investments can be justified.

• POSTER COMPETITION FINALISTS



DR NIKOLAS THOMOPOULOS

- Researcher
- Institute for Transport Studies, University of Leeds (United Kingdom)

Key publications

- Thomopoulos, N., Embery, J. (2013) Chapter 9 – Two birds with one stone: Enhancing education for sustainable development and employability. In Atfield, R., Kemp, P. (Eds.) Enhancing education

for sustainable development in business, management, hospitality, leisure, sport, tourism. York, Higher Education Academy.

- Thomopoulos, N., Oulis, I., Grant-Muller, S. (2013) Regional accessibility impacts of the Egnatia Motorway, Regional Studies, (under review)

► Smarter use of ICTs in urban areas to respond to natural disasters.

Both large cities and remote regions have been severely affected by natural disasters in the past few years, where failure of power infrastructure networks added to the restrictions of emergency services. However, it is globally acknowledged that in emergency situations time is not but human lives. Therefore, the potential offered through social media opens up new opportunities for quicker and more effective responses to natural disasters, as proven during Hurricane Sandy in New York in 2012. This study seeks to answer: how can social media be used effectively during emergency situations? Where should information come from and to whom should it be directed? How can information accuracy be increased to save time and resources?

The methodology applied in this research is the ex-post social analysis of incidents due to natural disasters or extreme weather conditions which are increasingly affecting European cities and regions.

Preliminary findings show that both proactive and reactive action can be helpful. Proactive actions include infrastructure maintenance, improvement and reinforcement as well as training of citizens, particularly of vulnerable groups in the most vulnerable regions. Reactive actions include the use of social media to inform affected citizens and manage community involvement during natural disasters or extreme weather conditions. Emergency services may use alternative or additional social media accounts to: inform the general public.

This research contributes to opening up new research avenues aimed at establishing both proactive and reactive measures and policies to increase infrastructure resilience during natural disasters or extreme weather conditions.

• POSTER COMPETITION FINALISTS



Ms LELA TIJANIĆ

- Assistant
- Department of Economics and Tourism, Juraj Dobrila University of Pula (Croatia)

Key publications

- Tijanić, L., (2011) Analiza gospodarske strukture Istarske županije. In: Kersan-Škabić, I. and Afrić Rakitovac, K., eds. Klasteri i gospodarski

potencijali Istarske županije. Pula: Sveučilište Jurja Dobrile u Puli, Odjel za ekonomiju i turizam 'Dr. Mijo Mirković'.

- Tijanić, L., (2011) Klasteri u EU – primjeri za budući razvoj klastera. In: Kersan-Škabić, I. And Afrić Rakitovac, K., eds. Klasteri i gospodarski potencijali Istarske županije. Pula: Sveučilište Jurja
- Dobrile u Puli, Odjel za ekonomiju i turizam 'Dr. Mijo Mirković'.

► **Trying to 'Discover' the Regional Competitiveness Pyramid A New Perspective in Measuring the Competitiveness of Croatian NUTS 3 Regions.**

Strengthening regional competitiveness has become one of the main tasks of regions and economic actors and decision makers if they are to achieve 'smart, sustainable and inclusive growth', as defined in the Europe 2020 strategy.

Despite the need to find the optimum strategy to produce competitive regions, defining the best way to measure regional competitiveness has provoked numerous discussions between academic researchers and economists in the European Union (EU). Competitiveness reports, composite indices, indicators and different models of regional competitiveness contribute to trying to find the answer, but the question still remains.

The aim of this research is to analyse the competitiveness of Croatian NUTS 3 regions by computing the volume of the regional competitiveness pyramid (one of the models that can be applied when measuring competitiveness) and to analyse if this gives similar results to

other studies that measure regional competitiveness. By calculating the volume of the pyramid model, this research attempts to measure regional competitiveness more thoroughly than previous analyses and applications of the pyramid model have done.

The results of the research have shown that using the volume of the regional competitiveness pyramid is the most appropriate way to measure regional competitiveness. The research has also confirmed the different characteristics between Croatian NUTS regions, coastal and inland regions, predominately urban and predominately rural regions.

The approach presented in this paper can be used to measure the competitiveness of other EU (NUTS) regions as well as in Croatia. The results can also be useful for further regional strategic planning and development.

• POSTER COMPETITION FINALISTS



DR ADI WEIDENFELD

- Assistant
- Department of Economics & International Development, Middlesex University (United Kingdom)

Key publications

- Butler R.W and Weidenfeld, A. (2012), Cooperation and competition during the resort lifecycle, *Tourism Recreation Research*, 37, (11), pp. 15-26.

- Weidenfeld, A., Butler, R. W and Williams, A.M. (2011) The role of clustering, cooperation and complementarities in the visitor attraction sector, *Current Issues in Tourism* 14 (7), pp. 595-629.

► **Can Europeans Really Learn from One Another? The Impact of Cognitive and Cultural Proximity on Knowledge Transfer between Actors in Cross-Border Regions.**

Improved interactions between regional actors, such as managers, policy makers, customers and tourists are a key factor in the success of territorial collaboration including building trust, knowledge transfer and facilitating social innovation at the European regional scale. When these processes occur in regions belonging to different countries such as European Cross-Border Regions (CBRs), intercultural and cognitive differences pose additional constraints for learning and innovation.

The impact of the levels of cognitive and cultural differences (or proximities) on knowledge transfers in cross-cultural interactions between cross-border regional actors remains understudied particularly that between managers in the service industries (e.g. retail, catering, leisure and tourism) and customers. Understanding

the obstacles and enablers of two knowledge transfers in CBRs could improve the ability of firms to use the unexploited potential in cross-border learning innovative practices.

The proposed poster presents a study on the aspects influencing knowledge transfer and exchange of ideas between actors belonging to different (but not 'too' different cultures) in European CBRs. The study focuses on service SMEs in two CBRs between Finland and Sweden, where actors in two neighbouring national cultures, in one of the most sparsely populated rural regions in the EU, interact, collaborate and exchange ideas. The proposed poster will provide some policy implications for encouraging and facilitating cross-border knowledge transfer.

• LECTURERS



PROFESSOR GORDON DABINETT

Studied at

- 1981 University of Cambridge, MSc Land Economy
- 1976 Heriot-Watt University, BSc Town and Country Planning

Current position

- Professor for Regional Studies, University of Sheffield (United Kingdom)

Specialisation

- Constructing meanings and understandings of spatial justice.
- The analysis and evaluation of regional and local policies to address uneven spatial development.

Key publications

- Dabinett, G. (2010). Spatial justice and the translation of European strategic planning ideas in the urban sub-region of South Yorkshire. *Urban Studies*. 47(11), pp.2389-2408.
- Dabinett, G. (2010). Spatiality and Fairness in EU Territorial Cohesion Policy. *Scienze Regionali, Italian Journal of Regional Science*. 9(1), pp.119-122.

► How is the academic thinking on regional and urban development influencing the shaping of EU cohesion policy?

New academic thinking has played an important role in providing evidence about patterns of spatial development in the EU, in all of its complexity and diversity. Research and scholarly works have made a critical contribution to the mapping of urban and regional development, showing the current trends and offering understanding of the main forces shaping the form and nature of cities, their hinterlands and rural areas, and the inter-relationships between them. This has also stimulated informed and consistent debate about the future of the geographies of the EU, reflected in the urban and territorial elements of EU cohesion policy.



PROFESSOR MAROŠ FINKA

Studied at

- 1990 Slovak University of Technology, PhD Spatial Planning and Urban Design
- 1986 Slovak University of Technology, M.Arch in Spatial Planning, Urban Design and Architecture

Current position

- Professor for Regional Studies, Slovak University of Technology (Slovakia)

Specialisation

- Spatial planning

Key publications

- Finka, M. (Ed.), (2011). Priestorové plánovanie – Spatial Planning, ROAD Bratislava.
- Finka, M. (2010). Evolving Frameworks for Regional Development and Spatial Planning in the New Regions of the EU, In: ADAMS, N., Cotella, G, NUNES, R: Territorial Development, Cohesion and Spatial Planning, (2011)

► How is the academic thinking on regional and urban development influencing the shaping of EU cohesion policy?

The academic environment, with its independent thinking, traditionally provides critical reflection on spatial development policies including cohesion policy and implementation practice.

The triangle 'research – education – practice' as the core concept of the European spatial planning schools is an example not only of continual flows of knowledge from academia to the professional environment, policy development and practice, but also of the sensitive perception of development problems and systematic research into their possible solutions.

Failures in the policies' implementation have, in many cases, been determined by the lack of or ignorance of available knowledge in the academic environment or by the lack of reflection of current development practical problems by academia.



Ms VERONICA GAFFEY

Studied at

- Trinity College Dublin, English Literature

Current position

- Head of Unit for Evaluation and European Semester
Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy
European Commission

Specialisation

- Evaluation

Key publications

- Gaffey V. (April 2013). 'A fresh look at the intervention logic of Structural Funds' in Evaluation, Volume 19 Number 2, Sage.

► How is the academic thinking on regional and urban development influencing the shaping of EU cohesion policy?

DG Regional and Urban Policy undertook intensive consultations with academics and with research organisations in developing its proposals for the future. It also commissioned a number of studies from academic experts. In the area of the results orientation, a task force on outcomes was mobilised by the advisors to the Commissioner involving some of the top international experts in regional development. The Commission's clearer conceptual basis for

result indicators was based on the work of this task force. Academic experts were also involved in advising on the completion of the ex-post evaluation of the 2000-2006 period, the findings of which also fed into the shaping of the future policy.



Ms MANUELA GELENG

Studied at

- University of Trieste
- University of London,
- Solvay Business School in Brussels

Current position

- Head of Unit, European Social Fund Policy and Legislation, Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion European Commission

Manuela Geleng works for the European Commission. She currently heads the unit responsible for European Social Fund Policy and Legislation in the Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion. Prior to that, she worked in the private sector as a management consultant and for the United Nations Development Programme in the United States and Central Africa.

She studied languages at the University of Trieste in Italy, where she briefly lectured at the Faculty of Economics. She holds an MSc in Financial Economics from the University of London and a Master in Public Administration and Management from the Solvay Business School in Brussels. She completed her postgraduate studies at the Diplomatic Academy in Vienna. She speaks Italian, German, English, French, Spanish and some Russian.



EMERITUS PROFESSOR CLIFF HAGUE

Studied at

- 1968 University of Manchester, Postgraduate Diploma in Town Planning
- 1966 University of Cambridge, BA Geography

Current position

- Emeritus Professor, Heriot-Watt University (United Kingdom)

Specialisation

- Spatial planning and urban and regional development

Key publications:

- Böhme, K and Hague, C, (2013). 'Territorial insight: Where to focus what types of investment' Second ESPON 2103 Synthesis Report, Luxembourg: ESPON.
- Hague, C, Hague, E and Breitbach, C, (2011). Regional and Local Economic Development, Basingstoke and New York: Palgrave Macmillan.

► How is the academic thinking on regional and urban development influencing the shaping of EU cohesion policy?

Research has highlighted the importance of agglomeration economies and the significance of metropolitan and urban areas to EU and national economies. The growth of the knowledge economy seems to have added a premium to the advantages that can be gained by access that cities offer to untraded goods and services that increase the prospects for innovation. Thus urban policy has become a more significant part of the remit of DG Regional Policy, and the European Structural and Investment Funds 2014-2020 make special provision for urban areas.

Another key aspiration in the new funding period is integration across policy sectors. This again links to academic research, but also to the experiences in the LEADER ('Liaison Entre Actions de Développement de l'Économie Rurale', meaning 'Links between the rural economy and development actions') programme. The idea and practice of place-based development, as advocated by the Barca Report (2009), can be seen in the provisions for Community-Led Local Development. Climate change adaptation and risk prevention is another theme deriving from academic thinking.



DR RONNIE HALL

Studied at

- 1987 University of Ulster, DPhil
- 1975 University of Leeds, BA Economics

Current position

- Principal Adviser to the Director-General for Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission

Specialisation

- International relations, Northern Ireland Task Force and the Open Days Conference of Regions and Cities

Key publications

- Hall, R., Smith, A., Tsoukalis, L., (2001). *Competitiveness and Cohesion in EU Policies* (Oxford University Press).

► How is the academic thinking on regional and urban development influencing the shaping of EU cohesion policy?

I have been associated with regional policy for most of my period in the Commission since 1989. I have been involved in the policy development side, and in this role I have worked closely with the academia. The academic community has helped to bring clarity to our policy: its aims, priorities and implementation system. For example, it was thanks to the help of the academic community that we were able to devise the first working definition of 'economic and social cohesion' as an object of policy. Indeed, chapter 1 of the 1996 Cohesion report is entitled 'What do we mean by cohesion?'

The academic community has also been extensively involved as policy advisers, including at the level of the Commissioner for Regional Policy, and on key concrete implementation issues such as the evaluation of impacts. The result is that the policy has achieved considerable credibility at European level. The RSA has acted as an important bridge between the Commissioner and the academic world.



PROFESSOR JONATHAN LEVIE

Studied at

- 1995 University of London (London Business School), Ph.D.
- 1983 National University of Ireland, MSc Management
- 1981 National University of Ireland, BSc. Natural Sciences

Current position

- Professor in the Hunter Centre for Entrepreneurship at the University of Strathclyde (United Kingdom)

Specialisation

- Comparative entrepreneurial strategies, the evolution of young firms, the environment for entrepreneurship, and the nature of interaction between entrepreneurs and resource providers.

• Key publications

- Levie, J. and Autio, E. (2011) Regulatory Burden, Rule of Law, and Strategic Entry of Entrepreneurs: An international panel study. *Journal of Management Studies* Vol.48, No.6, pp 1392-1419.
- Levie, J. and Autio, E. (2008) A theoretical grounding and test of the GEM model. *Small Business Economics*, Vol. 31, No. 3 pp.235-263.

► How is the academic thinking on regional and urban development influencing the shaping of EU cohesion policy?

The European Commission has drawn on work by academics associated with the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM) to understand trends in the prevalence of entrepreneurial attitudes, activity and aspiration across nations and regions of Europe. For example, GEM data and analysis is being used by the OECD's LEEP programme to inform the EC and national and regional European policymakers on issues of entrepreneurship and social inclusion, focusing on youth, older people, women, immigrants and people with disabilities.

Recent work on Regional Entrepreneurship Systems has recently revealed large differences in entrepreneurship ecosystems across European regions. These have profound implications for cohesion policy. I am working with enterprise agencies in Scotland, translating this analysis into regional programmes of collective impact. Work on institutions and entrepreneurship has revealed effects of different policy regimes such as labour regulation and business entry and exit regulation.



DR EDUARDA MARQUES DA COSTA

Studied at

- 2001 University of Lisbon, PhD in Geography
- 1993 University of Lisbon, Master in Human Geography and Regional and Local Planning

Current position

- Associate Professor of the Institute of Geography and Spatial Planning, University of Lisbon (Portugal)

Specialisation

- Spatial planning.

• Key publications

- Sustainable Urban Development in Portugal: an Integrated Approach (2012), European Commission Directorate General for Regional Policy (in collaboration (English version and Portuguese version)
- 'Monitoring and Evaluation of policies – methodological contribution based on the Portuguese case study' (2011), From Strategic Environmental Assessment to Territorial Impact Assessment: Reflections about evaluation practice, ed. Joaquin Farinos, Universidade de Valência

► How is the academic thinking on regional and urban development influencing the shaping of EU cohesion policy?

Academic thinking intervenes in different domains: contributing to a better knowledge of territories, recognising their strengths and their governance specificities; promoting large conceptual and methodological discussions that are integrated in policymaking and policy implementation; developing applied research namely in impact assessment and other ex-ante evaluation studies; participation in advanced research of specific thematic updates in the context of 2014-2020.

For future regional policy post-2020, academia should tighten its relations with the policy-making process, enlarging theoretical and methodological debates to improve territorialisation of European policies.



PROFESSOR PHILIP McCANN

Studied at

- 1993 St. Edmund's College, University of Cambridge, PhD Regional Economics
- 1993 St. Edmund's College, University of Cambridge, MA Land Economy
- 1988 Magdalene College, University of Cambridge, MPhil. Urban and Regional Economics 1987 Magdalene College, University of Cambridge, BA Land Economy

Current position

- Special Adviser of J.Hahn, the Commissioner for Regional Policy
- The University of Groningen Endowed Chair of Economic Geography, (The Netherlands)

Specialisation

- He is one of the world's most highly cited and widely recognised economic geographers and spatial economists of his generation.

• Key publications

- McCann P. (2013). Modern Urban and Regional Economics, Oxford University Press.
- McCann P. (with Iammarino, S.) (2013). Multinationals and Economic Geography: Location, Technology and Innovation, Edward Elgar.

► How is the academic thinking on regional and urban development influencing the shaping of EU cohesion policy?

The reforms to EU Cohesion Policy have been the result of intense debates involving different academic and intellectual traditions as well as wide-ranging evidence-based inputs from the experience of policy actors in a variety of different contexts. The academic research and policy-based inputs shaping the future EU cohesion policy are derived from global debates, within which specifically European discussions are embedded. Here, the links between the different dimensions of growth - smart, sustainable and inclusive - are central considerations in all aspects of the policy reforms, and these involve

building frameworks within which private sector, public sector and civil society actors are able to drive development in ways which are appropriate for the local context.

As such building on and exploiting the place-based dimensions of growth is critical for ensuring that all European regions are able to benefit from the EU cohesion policy reforms in the specific manner which best helps to foster and strengthen their respective development paths.



PROFESSOR FRANK VAN OORT

Studied at

- 2002 Erasmus University, Rotterdam, PhD 'Agglomeration, Economic Growth and Innovation. Spatial Analyses of Knowledge Externalities in the Netherlands'
- 1994 Erasmus University, Rotterdam, Spatial and Business Economics

Current position

- Professor of Urban Economics, Utrecht University (The Netherlands)

Specialisation

- Urban economics and spatial planning

Key publications

- (Van Oort, F., Burger, M., Knobens J., Raspe O., (2012). 'Multilevel approaches and the firm-agglomeration ambiguity in economic growth studies'. *Journal of Economic Surveys* 26:468-491. Working paper version: Tinbergen Institute Discussion Paper TI 2012-014/3.
- Vinciguerra, S., Frenken, K., Hoekman J., Van Oort, Fr., (2011). 'European infrastructure networks and regional innovation in science-based technologies'. *Economics of Innovation and New Technology* 20: 517-537.

► How is the academic thinking on regional and urban development influencing the shaping of EU cohesion policy?

Urban economics and agglomeration economies are currently at the core of regional development studies. Controlled for sorting and heterogeneity in industrial structure, firms in cities are more productive than the same kind of firms outside cities. The reasons for this are embedded in cluster theories, as well as theories on diversification and technological change in new and existing industries.

Evolutionary and institutional economic theories are important in explaining these development trajectories. This determines the potential success of policy instruments, smart specialisation and place based development strategies – issues at the core of EU cohesion policy. It is important to add the dimension of networks and relatedness (in trade, knowledge relations and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)) to localised cluster strategies: investments in one region may be beneficial to other regions firms and consumers. Modelling spatial dependence and heterogeneity is therefore crucial in understanding development mechanisms in European regions and cities.



DR ERIC VON BRESKA

Studied at

- 1999 Ludwig-Maximilians-University, Munich, PhD Political Science and Economics
- 1994 Ludwig-Maximilians-University, Munich, MA Political Science and Economics

Current position

- Head of Unit (Economic analysis), DG for Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission

Specialisation

- Regional and Urban policy

Key publications

- Spatial justice and the translation of European strategic planning ideas in the urban sub-region of South Yorkshire. *Urban Studies*. 47(11), pp.2389-2408.
- Spatiality and Fairness in EU Territorial Cohesion Policy. *Scienze Regionali, Italian Journal of Regional Science*. 9(1), pp.119-122.

► How is the academic thinking on regional and urban development influencing the shaping of EU cohesion policy?

Academic thinking provides an important input in the shaping of EU cohesion policy. In 2008/09 the European Commission launched for example a far-reaching debate involving academics about cohesion policy's added value, priorities and institutional setting. This debate was summarised in the Barca Report, named after the then Director General of the Italian Ministry of Economy and Finance, Fabrizio Barca.

Beyond a critical appraisal of cohesion policy, the report provided a number of reform options. Some of them were reflected in the Commission's proposal for shaping cohesion policy in the next multiannual financial framework 2014-20.

. JURORS



PROFESSOR JOHN BACHTLER

Studied at

- 1983 University of Birmingham, Postgraduate degree Economic Geography
- 1980 University College of Swansea, BA Hons. Geography and Economics

Current position

- Professor of European Policy Studies and Director, European Policies Research Centre, University of Strathclyde (United Kingdom)

Specialisation

- Regional and industrial development in Europe.
- Regional development and regional policy

- Policies for the service sector, multinational location factors, inward investment policies in Europe, reform of the Structural Funds and EU enlargement.

Key publications

- Bachtler, J., Mendez, C. and Wishlade, F. (2013) EU Integration and EU Cohesion Policy: The Dynamics of Regional Policy Reform, Ashgate.
- Bachtler, J. and Ferry, M. (2013), Conditionality and Policy Performance: the Case of European Structural Funds, Regional Studies.

► What are your expectations towards the research of early career researchers on cohesion policy topics?

There are exciting opportunities for early career researchers (ECRs) in the direction of travel being taken by cohesion policy. The latest reform debate on the 2014-20 period, and the changes introduced, demonstrate policymaker concerns with the performance of the policy, the need to improve its intervention logic, pressure for more visible results, the introduction of conditionalities, the efficiency and effectiveness of the multi-level governance system, and

weaknesses of institutional and administrative capacity. This is fertile ground for ECRs to cultivate in their future research careers.

The past five years have demonstrated a greater openness of the Commission towards academic research – the Open Days University is just one example – and there is considerable scope for more academics to be involved in Commission-sponsored studies. The European Parliament and Committee of the Regions are also engaging more with academia.



DR LISA DE PROPRIIS

Studied at

- 1999 University of Birmingham, PhD Economics Title: 'Flexibility and Innovation in District-type Clusters'
- 1993 University of Exeter, MA Economics of the European Community
- 1992 University of Bologna, Laurea Economia

Current position

- Reader in Regional Economic Development, Department of Management, University of Birmingham (United Kingdom)

Specialisation

- Small firms and clusters; competitiveness in clusters and regions; forms of clusters and governance; innovation; clusters and foreign

direct investment; regional development; knowledge economy and clusters, and creative and cultural industries.

Key publications

- Cooke, P. and De Propriis, L. (2012) A Policy Agenda for EU Smart Growth: the Role of Creative and Cultural Industries, in D Bailey, H Lenihan and J-M Arauzo-Carod (eds.) *Industrial Policy Beyond the Crisis. Regional, National and International Perspectives*. London: Routledge.
- Boix R., Lazzaretto L., Capone F., De Propriis L., and Sánchez D. (2012) The geography of creative industries in Europe. Comparing France, Great Britain, Italy and Spain, in (eds) Luciana Lazzaretto, *Creative industries and innovation in Europe – Concepts, measures and comparatives case studies*, Routledge.

► What are your expectations towards the research of early career researchers on cohesion policy topics?

Early career researchers have the potential to bring a breath of fresh air into the debate on cohesion policy since they are probably the first of generation of researchers to see themselves as truly European. We need quantitative and rigorous analyses that can assess the processes and the performance of cohesion policy in its aim to achieve European socio-economic convergence.



DR RUDOLF NIESSLER

Studied at

- University of Vienna, PhD, Economics and Informatics
- University of Vienna, MA, Economics and Informatics

Current position

- Director for Policy Co-ordination at the European Commission's DG for Regional and Urban Policy

Specialisation

- Economics

Key publications

- During his time as researcher at the Federal Institute for Less Favored and Mountainous Areas in Vienna the most important publications were the 3 volumes on the reform of Agriculture Policy (Agrarpolitik 1, 2 and 3) dating between 1987 and 1889 and two volumes on rural development (Rural Change in Europe from 1987 and 1991).

► What are your expectations towards the research of early career researchers on cohesion policy topics?

Cohesion policy contributes to strengthening the European Union's economic, social and territorial cohesion. In order to achieve this objective, the Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy works closely with experts from the academic world.

Academic thinking allows us to better understand whether and how our policy has achieved its objective. And more importantly, from their research we gain insights into how policy has to better support Member States and regions in coping with the changing socio-economic environment.

Recently, our efforts have shifted towards ensuring effective use of European Structural and Investment Funds. To achieve this objective, we have enlarged the collaboration with experts – mostly from universities – and launched a call for expression of interest in fields such as research, development and innovation.

The most significant deliverable of Cohesion Policy, the Cohesion Report, is prepared with the contribution of the most knowledgeable academics in Europe to more efficiently implement Cohesion Policy.



MR WOLFGANG PETZOLD

Studied at

- University of Bremen, degree in Sociology

Current position

- Head of Unit for Events, Fora, OPEN DAYS, Committee of the Regions

Specialisation

- EU Cohesion policy;
- regional and urban development;
- communication and public relations.

Key publications

- (2013) Conditionality, flexibility, unanimity: The embedded 2013 reform of EU cohesion policy, in: European Structural and Investment Funds, 1.2013
- (2006). Die Reform der EU-Strukturpolitik 2007-2013 zwischen Verteilungslogik und Europäisierung (Between redistribution and Europeanisation: Reforming EU cohesion policy 2007-2013). Jahrbuch des Föderalismus, pp. 552-575. Baden-Baden

► What are your expectations towards the research of early career researchers on cohesion policy topics?

In the years to come, I would expect that many researchers – not only in the fields of urban, regional and spatial development – will connect with EU cohesion policy through applied research on its impact and the ESPON programme.

With deepening European integration, I am convinced that the EU's economic and social geography will matter even more in the future than in the past. My hope is that research will continue to deliver on the fundamental questions of place, space and territorial development and that we can strengthen the links between the OPEN DAYS with the academic world in this respect.

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ISBN: 978-92-79-32501-4

doi:10.2776/82183

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